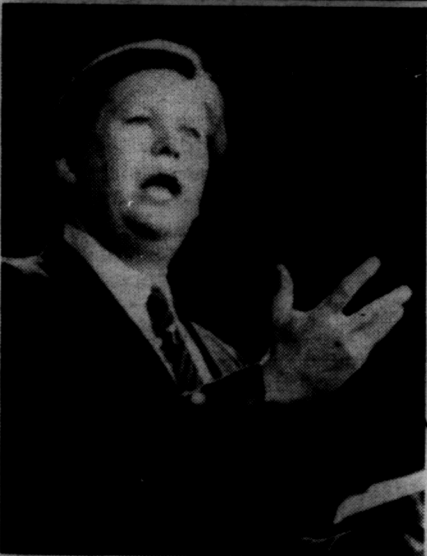




The Baptist Record

Published Since 1877

Thursday, August 17, 1989



Youth Night — hundreds respond

'Say yes to laughter, to learning, to love'

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, 1989, featured Jay Strack, a singer, and a ventriloquist, and 12,000 Mississippi teenagers.

The crowd heard Strack (left, middle), an evangelist from Dallas, talk about his coming from a broken home. He said that youths need to go "Beyond the Glitter" and that both in and out of church, they are enamored by the glitter. Instead, they should "prepare their mind" that alcohol and drugs are not an option; they should "present their body" and prove what they are made of; and "make a stand" for what is right.

"The most powerful testimony is a young person who can say 'Thanks to Jesus, I've never been high on drugs, I've never been busted, I've never been drunk.'" Strack, added, "No matter how bad you are . . . the Bible says you can be forgiven and be like new."

Ventriloquist Dennis Lee of Dallas and his dummy ape Nickolas, talk with volunteers from the audience, Rusty Bryant, Cassie Leopard, and Nikke Porter, all of First Church, Clinton. Lee told them to say yes to laughter, to learning, and to love.

Al Denton (left, bottom), from Dallas, led the singing and gave a mini-concert for the crowd.

And hundreds responded to the invitation. The response was greater even than planners had expected and youth leaders came from the audience to help. Pictured at right, center, is a small counseling group.

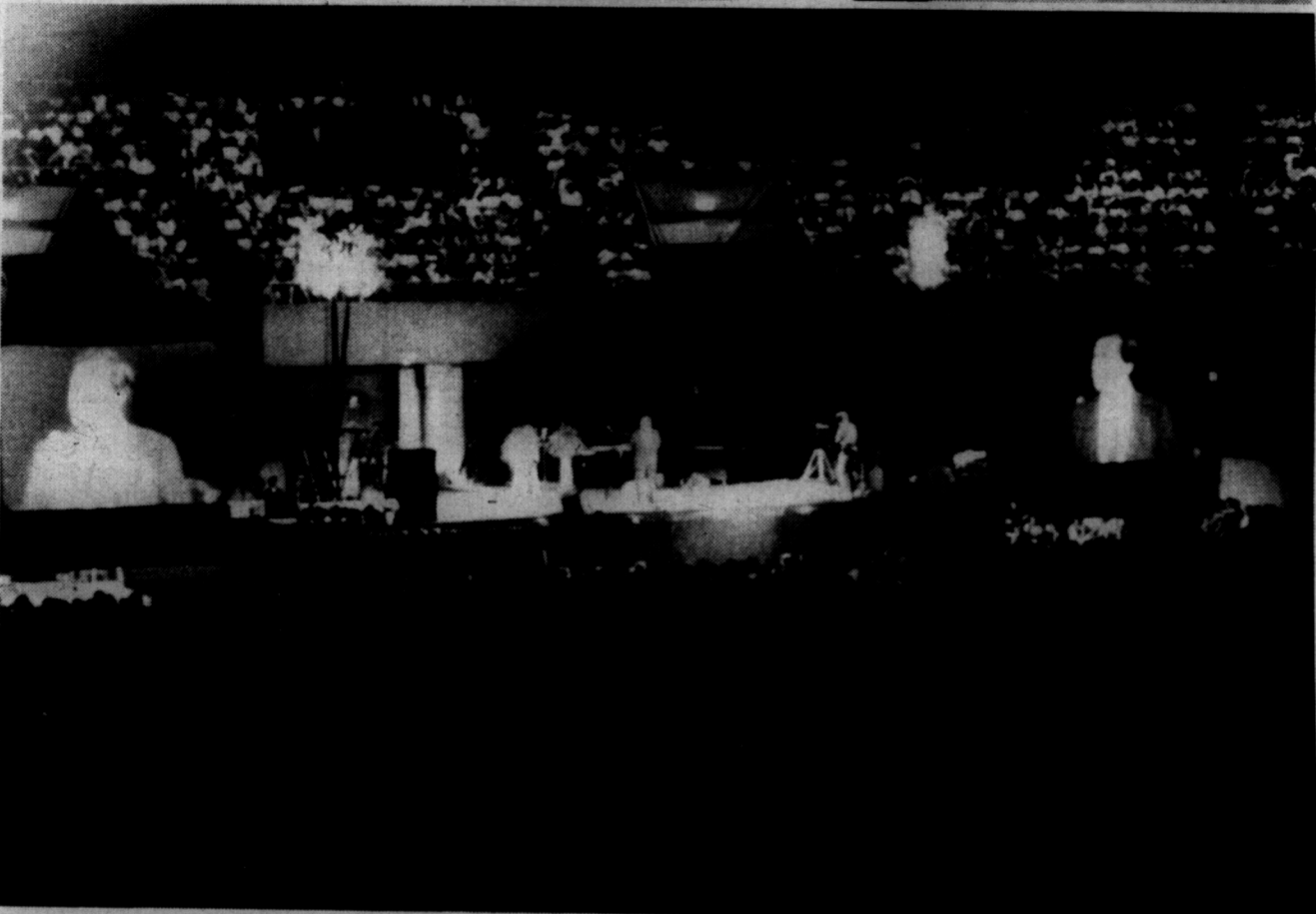
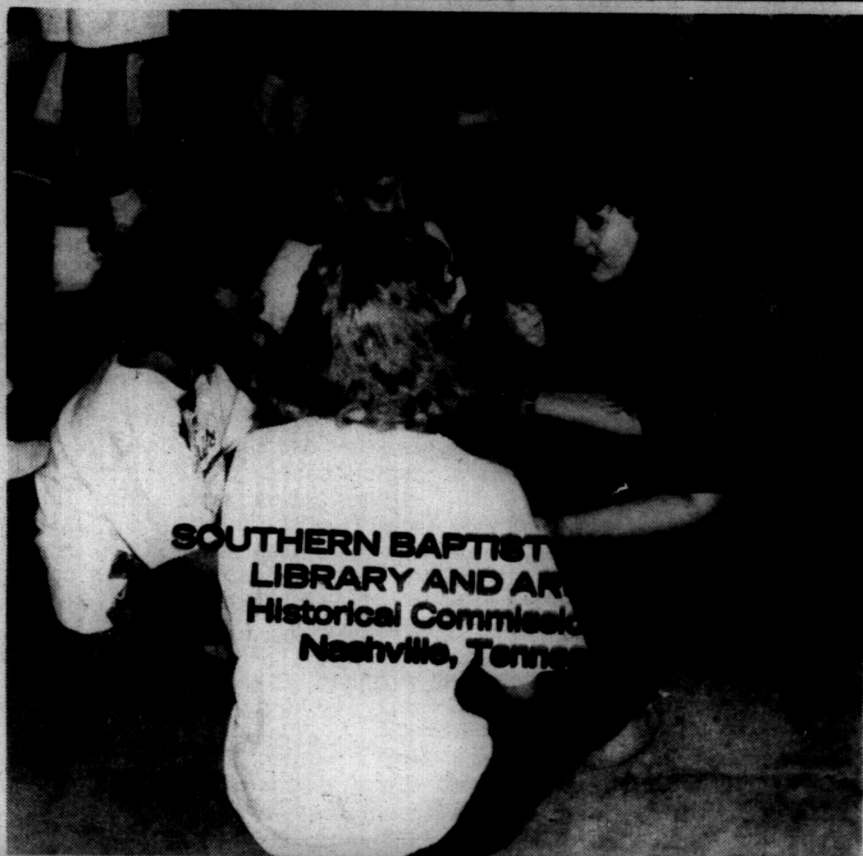
Large video screens (below) aided in the ability to see the stage and the speakers were elevated to allow sound to carry throughout the large facility.

Serving on the Youth Night committee were Graham Smith, MBCB, chairman; Gary Maze, Jackson; Bobby Williamson, Brandon; Susan Clarke, Jackson; Larry Salter, MBCB; Greg Biggs, Clinton; Jim Blackwell, Raymond; Carl Savell,

Jackson; and Ryan Whitley, Hattiesburg.

Mississippi College radio station WHJT broadcast from on site and played some of the program on the radio. Also, a videotape of the program will be played on ACTS in Jackson and is available to other stations and for local church use on request to the Broadcast Services Department, MBCB.

Photos by Billy Hudgens



Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

MissionsFest Mississippi

An experience in foreign missions will be waiting for Mississippi Baptists when MissionsFest Mississippi comes to Jackson on Sept. 8 and 9. It is one of a series of regional conferences that the Foreign Mission Board has planned for several locations across the country.

The activities will begin on Friday evening and conclude with a commissioning service on Saturday evening at the municipal auditorium. For the most part, programs will be conducted in the facilities of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Twenty-eight furloughing missionaries, many of them Mississippians, will be on hand for the occasion. They will represent mission fields in the Americas; in Africa; in Asia, and in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. In addition, Indonesia will be represented among the 12 emeritus missionaries who will be present. With the three missionary kids who will be a part of the occasion will be two from the Philippines.

The 17 Foreign Mission Board staff members who will be here will make a total of 60 foreign missions personalities who will be in Jackson for the conference. Keith Parks, president

of the Foreign Mission Board, will lead the staff contingent that will be present. Others will include Bill O'Brien, executive vice-president, and Lewis Myers, a Mississippi native who is the director of Cooperative Services International and a vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board.

Cooperative Services International is the new Foreign Mission Board direction that establishes working contacts for Southern Baptist lay people to go into areas otherwise closed. They perform their professional services in the national job markets and provide a witness when it is possible.

There will be conferences on many aspects of foreign missions work as well as opportunities to dialog with the personalities, particularly Parks.

On Saturday there will be two instances of Global Walkaround, which is described as "A unique opportunity to experience firsthand the sights and sounds of missions."

Lunch on Saturday will be served from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Van with food prepared by the Brotherhood Department.

The commissioning service will be at 7 p.m. Saturday. A flag processional will initiate the service, and music

will be provided by a combined choir under the direction of Graham Smith, Mississippi Church Music Department director. Karen Hardy of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will be the orchestra coordinator.

Mike Parks, minister of music at Morrison Heights Church, will lead the congregational singing. Irene Martin of the Baptist Record staff will be the pianist, and Dot Pray of the Church Music Department will be the organist.

Keith Parks will deliver the charge to the missionaries who will be commissioned before their return to their fields of service.

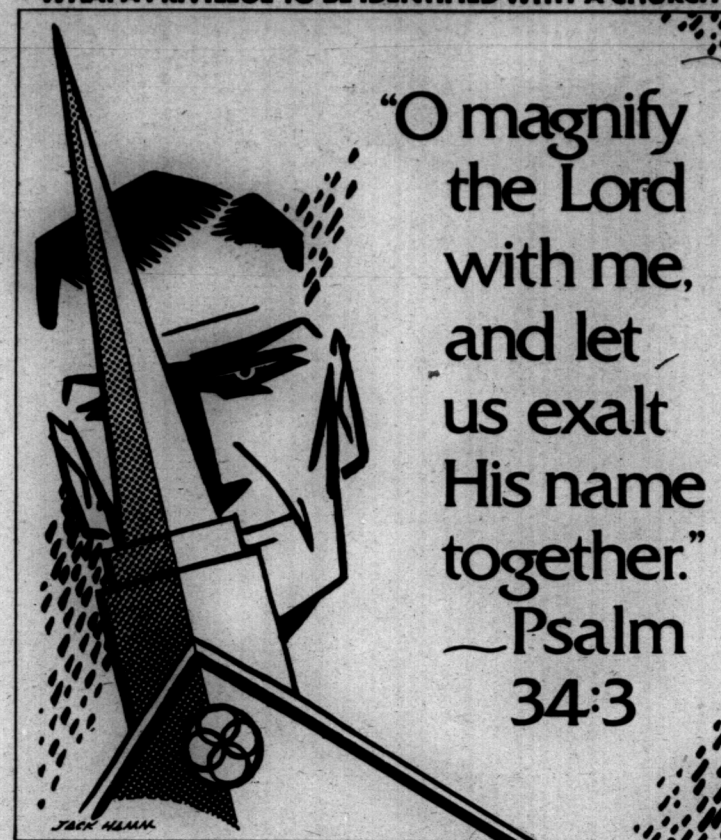
On Friday night during a missions rally there will be a flag processional also and special music by the choir of First Church, Jackson, led by Larry Black, minister of music. Becky Payne, organist at First Church, will be the accompanist.

There will be a Global Walkaround during the Friday evening activities also.

Registration will get under way at 5 p.m. Friday in the lobby of the Baptist Building, across the street from First Church.

Surely it is a rare occasion to have

WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH A CHURCH



such an opportunity as this in Mississippi. Mississippians who are interested in foreign missions should be on hand to get a first-hand look at what is going on in foreign missions work. Those who need their interest

whetted should be on hand because the weekend's activities would be guaranteed to do just that.

This is an opportunity that should not be missed by any who could make arrangements to be present.

Church conducts a continuing program of missions education and action which is organized and directed by Greg Pennington.

The charge of the Enon Association's June 7, 1989, letter that several faithful members moved their membership from the church, implying divisiveness within the church, must be clarified. It is true that between six and eight families out of about 220 families left the church over the ordination issue. Five of these families are relatives of Don Clark, the present Director of Missions of Enon Association. While the congregation was saddened by these decisions, there has always remained a strong sense of understanding and blessing toward these people. There remains at Northwest Baptist Church a growing, open, and unified fellowship.

The encompassing issue that the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board faces is the autonomy of the local church. Article XIV of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message clearly states that associations and conventions "have no authority over one another or over other churches." While no formal authority can be ascertained, there appears to be an informal authority at work in which the protest of the association is regarded more highly than the local church's recommendation and the Mission Board staff recommendation. It is greatly disturbing that the local congregation had no opportunity to respond to the false allegations of "divisiveness" in this instance. The hierarchical connectionalism displayed between an autonomous association and the trustees of a Southern Baptist entity, apparently in opposition to a local church, violates historic biblical principles held dear by Baptists. This sets a dangerous polity precedent which

will have continuing harmful ramifications to the spirit of cooperation in the Southern Baptist Convention.

To put the autonomy issue in perspective, one must recognize that Northwest Baptist Church is not only excluded from the Enon Association for the ordination of women but also for the practice of accepting scriptural baptism by immersion outside of Baptist circles, or "alien baptism." This would mean that Bellevue Baptist in Memphis, TN (Adrian Rogers, pastor), and Emmanuel Baptist in Enid, OK (Foreign Mission Board trustee, Gary Smith, pastor), would be excluded from the Enon Association. Would you consider it "divisive" or "a stand on Biblical convictions within the autonomy of the local church," to disagree with Enon Association's constitutional position in the matter of alien baptism? We certainly agree with the right of an association to exclude any church for any reason, but this does not make the decision to exclude necessarily wise, fair, reasonable, or warranted.

Recently, the Foreign Mission Board trustees passed a resolution to uphold the autonomy of the local church in deference to one member's desire to investigate the possibility of operating a school overseas. Would it not be proper in this instance to uphold the autonomy of the local church and appoint this compassionate, gentle, God-called couple as missionaries who would well represent all Southern Baptists?

Signed on Behalf of the
Congregation.
William V. Johnson
Pastor

This letter was approved by Northwest Baptist Church upon the unanimous recommendation of the deacons.

Guest opinion . . .

Congregation saddened by action

An open letter to the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board from the Northeast Baptist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma

The congregation of the Northwest Baptist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma, was deeply saddened by the action of the Mission Management Personnel Group, Committee A, made up of 14 trustees of the Foreign Mission Board, which denied foreign mission appointment of Greg and Katrina Pennington on the basis of "divisiveness" in the Enon Baptist Association. As you are aware from the Mission Board's staff recommendation, the Penningtons are exceptionally well qualified in every way to serve as foreign missionaries. We concur with your staff and affirm that Greg and Katrina have exhibited the highest standards of excellence as Christian ministers and people as they have served at Northwest Baptist Church. It is evident to us that Greg and Katrina are called by God to serve as foreign missionaries.

We were further saddened by the way in which the committee handled the allegations from the Enon Association against the Penningtons. On June 7, 1989, a letter was sent by the Enon Association to the Foreign Mission Board opposing the appointment of the Penningtons to foreign mission service based on "divisiveness." This letter had been preceded by a resolution and letter of February, 1987, in which the Enon Association opposed the appointment of the Penningtons based on an opposition to the ordination of women.

We strongly maintain that the trustees decision against the Penningtons based on "divisiveness" constitutes action taken against Northwest Baptist Church. Action taken by the Enon Association in 1987 excluded Northwest Baptist Church, not the Penningtons directly, from the association.

We reject the allegation that the Penningtons are divisive. From the very beginning, the issue within the Enon Association has been the ordination of women. This is clear from the Enon Association exclusionary clauses added to its constitution in 1987, and Don Clark's (present director of missions of Enon Association) Baptist Press statement of June 28, 1989, in which he said, "It's no secret that the association opposes the ordination of women." In this matter Katrina did not "adamantly pursue" ordination as was charged in the Enon Association letter of June 7, 1989, to the Foreign Mission Board. Rather, Northwest Baptist Church, after careful investigation of Scripture and led by the Holy Spirit, called Katrina out and set her apart for ministry through the act of ordination to the gospel ministry. This was a local church decision. The local church ordains. By denying the Penningtons appointment, it appears that the Foreign Mission Board trustees have taken this action based on the nature of the church in which the Penningtons minister.

Northwest Baptist Church, including the Penningtons, has never sought conflict and controversy with

the Enon Association. The idea that Northwest Baptist Church, including the Penningtons, is divisive is true only if the principled stand for local church autonomy in the face of tremendous pressure is now considered to be a divisive issue in the Southern Baptist Convention. If "divisive" is interpreted as being "uncooperative," then the charge is unsupportable and patently wrong. Until the time the church was excluded from the Enon Association, Northwest Baptist Church cooperated financially and through direct involvement. The Penningtons were a highly regarded part of the Associational Assist Team in the youth and preschool area and helped lead many conferences throughout the area. The former pastor, Phil Christopher, taught a seminary extension class in the association. Other Northwest Baptist Church members were involved in various associational committees, projects, and organizations.

Despite the exclusion from the Enon Association, Northwest Baptist Church has continued to be fully cooperative with the Oklahoma Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions. Rather than decreasing its giving, Northwest Baptist Church has continued to give 10 percent of its budget through the Cooperative Program and has added 1 percent to Southern Baptist missions causes through state and world relief. The church has maintained a vigorous local missions program. Special offerings for Southern Baptist causes have continued to grow. Northwest Baptist

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 113

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 27

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Don McGregor
Associate Editor Tim Nicholas
Assistant Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Coordinator Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Assistant Florence Larrimore
Circulation Assistant Renee Walley
Financial Records Betty Anne Bailey
Computer Operator Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Ferrell Cork, Jackson, vice chairman; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Bruce Hill, Lexington; Raymond Martin Jr., Jackson; Billy Thames, Wesson; Odean Puckett, Natchez, chairman; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

More than 25,000 respond at Budapest crusade

By Mike Creswell
BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP) — More than 25,000 people walked forward in response to evangelist Billy Graham's invitation to receive Christ as savior July 29 at People's Stadium in Budapest, Hungary.

Much of the playing field was covered by the throngs who responded, leaving crusade officials scrambling for evangelistic materials to give them.

A crowd estimated at 90,000 filled the stadium's 72,000 seats and the infield. Graham announced the gathering

was the largest such event ever held in the stadium. The service was broadcast throughout Hungary and other parts of Eastern and Western Europe.

The one-night crusade capped the European Baptist Federation Congress held at nearby Sports Hall July 26-30, which attracted more than 5,200 Baptists from 42 countries, including many from Eastern Europe.

The record number surpassed attendance at the last congress by 125 percent. The gathering was the first such major meeting held by Euro-

pean Baptists in an Eastern bloc country. The congress meets every five years.

For Hungary's 12,000 Baptists, playing host to the congress was a mammoth undertaking. They prepared for more than a year, coordinated by Hungarian Baptist pastor Emil Kiss. Sermons at the congress were translated into multiple languages, and music was provided by a 1,000-voice choir and full orchestra.

But, observers said, perhaps the most significant event of the congress was a speech by Matyas Szuros,

president of Hungary's national assembly and one of the nation's key leaders. Szuros called attention to the winds of change now blowing through much of Eastern Europe.

"It has been proven now that the Stalinist authoritarian system is now bankrupt, and in some countries political, economical and even moral crises have arisen and spread. There is a need for a new model for society to be worked out and created," Szuros said.

Baptists are contributing to making the "structure of a new society," he

added. He praised the "values of the democratically controlled model in the Baptist churches."

In a century marked by "pain and humiliation," Szuros continued, "let there be shouting that Baptists are the spokesmen for Christian love and forgiveness for the benefit of nations and for peace of people and nations and for the tolerance between people and countries, for righteousness and the defense of human rights."

"Our common purpose is that based upon the necessity of helping each

(Continued on page 4)

Home Board appoints six with state ties



Amy and Eric Griffin



David and Joye Patterson

ATLANTA — Six with Mississippi ties were among 69 appointed by the Home Mission Board this spring.

Mississippi native Amy Griffin and her husband, Eric, were appointed missionaries to Las Vegas, Nev. Mrs. Griffin will serve as family and church worker. Griffin will serve as church planter apprentice.

Mississippi natives David and Joye Patterson were appointed missionaries to Rupert, W. Va. Patterson will serve as church planter apprentice. Mrs. Patterson will serve as family and church worker.

Sumrall natives Cleophus and Ethel Rawls were appointed missionaries to Batesville. Rawls will serve as church planter apprentice. Mrs. Rawls will serve as family and church worker.

Mrs. Griffin is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, with computer science, French, and Spanish degrees. She is the daughter of Wayne and Florence Frederick of Guntown, former missionaries to Guadeloupe. Griffin is a graduate of the University of Georgia with an animal science degree. He recently graduated from Southwestern Seminary.

Patterson is a graduate of



Cleophus and Ethel Rawls

Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He is the son of Ethel and Louise Patterson of Magee. Mrs. Patterson, a Mathiston native, is a church music graduate of Mississippi College. The daughter of Dean and Dora McAlpin of Mathiston, she is currently interim minister of music for Hillsboro Church.

Rawls is a graduate of Mobile College and New Orleans Seminary. The Rawlses served on a Home Mission Board PRAXIS team in Conyers, Ga., in 1988.

Conservative fellowship says there was no lobby

By Tim Nicholas

A statewide meeting of the Mississippi Conservative Baptist Fellowship took place Monday at First Church, Indianola, focusing on discussions of editorials in the Baptist Record, publication of their own newsletter, and passed a resolution concerning lobbying for a candidate for the Home Mission Board.

Those in attendance, about 25, voted unanimously for a resolution that denied that anyone affiliated with their group did any lobbying for Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach. Martin, a member of the MCBF, was elected to

the Home Mission Board at the SBC this year after Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and a member of MCBF, wrote Committee on Nominations Chairman Joe Reynolds.

Harris has said he took Martin's name and that of three others to Reynolds' hotel in Las Vegas, but never met with Reynolds. Martin was elected to the HMB despite the fact that Mississippi's members of the committee had nominated another person.

Said convenor Bob Sheppard, a

(Continued on page 6)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 17, 1989

Published Since 1877

BSSB trustees turn aside from effort to fire Elder

By Toby Druin

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptist Sunday School Board trustees turned aside from an attempt to fire President Lloyd Elder Aug. 7. But while expressing support for his presidency, they rebuked him for what they perceived to be his involvement in denominational politics.

A motion by Trustee Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney and member of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C., to fire Elder was withdrawn after almost an hour of discussion and parliamentary maneuvers with no decision.

The trustees did approve a six-point statement prompted by trustee Larry Holly, physician and member of West End Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, who sent out a mailing of more than 40 pages of criticisms and questions of Elder in July and presented a motion for Elder's censure to the board's general administration committee, which reviews Elder's performance and makes recommendations to the full board.

The statement unanimously recommended by the committee and approved by the board:

— Expressed regret for Elder's "judgment and timing" regarding actions concerning a \$400,000 gift from the board to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee last February to pay on the Southern Baptist Convention Building debt. The actions, which

questioned if the board would have made the gift had it known the Executive Committee had discretionary use of funds such as Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs budget allocations, were perceived as "political activity."

— Requests Elder to present a documented explanation of his action regarding the \$400,000 gift.

— Instructs Elder to seek a "balance" in denominational political viewpoints in speakers, writers, and authors enlisted by the board and to "instruct" all to "refrain from agitating the political climate within the Southern Baptist Convention."

— Recommends that a committee be appointed to draft an instrument to use to evaluate the performance of the president.

— Encourages trustees with grievances against Elder to take them to the general administration committee for consideration in his annual performance evaluation.

Dan Collins, trustee and attorney from Taylors, S.C., added an amendment to the statement, which was approved, stating the trustees' support of Elder and pledging their efforts to work for the success of his presidency.

Collins said that with approval of the statement the trustees had drawn a "bright line" with which to evaluate Elder in the future. Holly's mailing and censure motion prompted the

statement. The mailing, which he gave to the press at Glorieta, contained more than 40 pages of letters, news stories, articles by Holly and a 12-page "history" he had written of the last six years of the board — Elder's tenure.

The material included reference to a 1985 controversy surrounding comments on Job in a Sunday School quarterly; comments about Elder's confrontation with three former SBC presidents after a Nashville press conference in February 1988; comments Elder had made in letters and press releases, which Holly interpreted to be political; and references to a new controversy over a Golden Gate Seminary professor's comments about the development of monotheism in the summer 1989 issue of the Biblical Illustrator magazine.

Holly and his material questioned what he perceived to be Elder's support of the moderate element in the SBC and his opposition to recent elected presidents. But the mailing focused principally on Elder's actions regarding the \$400,000 gift.

The gift was approved by the Sunday School Board in February after Elder — acting on information he had gleaned from the SBC inter-agency council and from a report of the SBC Executive Committee program and budget subcommittee — reported the

(Continued on page 5)

Trustees reopen Pennington case

By Robert O'Brien

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — A subcommittee of Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees reopened discussion of the case of Greg and Katrina Pennington, who were rejected for missionary appointment June 27 in a 9-4 vote.

After closed sessions, the subcommittee issued a statement intended to

dispel what trustee spokesmen called "inaccurate information" surrounding the case of the two ordained staff members of Northwest Baptist Church in Ardmore, Okla.

The statement, affirmed unanimously by the entire trustee board Aug. 9, also "keeps the door open" for possible reconsideration by the subcommittee of the Pennington's

application for missionary service, according to trustee Chairman C. Mark Corts of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Corts said reconsideration would not come immediately but possibly could occur before the two-year period which rejected missionary candidates normally must wait before again seeking appointment.

(Continued on page 4)

Trustees reopen Pennington case

(Continued from page 3)

Both Penningtons expressed willingness to cooperate with the process outlined in the trustee statement and said their only desire "is to see Southern Baptists united behind goals for missions and evangelism."

The subcommittee statement denied that Katrina Pennington's ordination or pressure from Oklahoma's Enon Baptist Association, which opposed her ordination, had affected the earlier vote.

It affirmed "the current board policy that ordination neither qualifies nor disqualifies for appointment," and encouraged "all qualified and God-called persons to apply for mission service with the assurance they will be given every prayerful consideration." The same subcommittee has approved two other ordained women for appointment in the past two years, Corts said.

Since the June 27 vote, board leaders have received "an avalanche of letters" from Southern Baptists protesting the decision, Corts said. They also have received requests for

reconsideration from the Penningtons, the couple's current and former pastors, Northwest Baptist Church, and others.

The rejection of the Penningtons also led to the resignation of at least four members of the mission board's development council, which helps raise development funds for the agency's worldwide mission endeavors. They are national council Chairman Mary Strauss, former board trustee from Hagerstown, Md.; former trustee Henry Crouch of Charlotte, N.C.; and Larry and Kathy Crawford of Burlington, N.C.

Three of the four reached for comment expressed appreciation for the latest trustee action but said they would wait and see what happens next.

"It hurt me to resign," Strauss said. "I love the Foreign Mission Board, but I also have strong convictions about affirming the gifts and calling of women. I hope the trustees will follow through with the Penningtons. I would reconsider my resignation if the board demonstrates it means what it says

about openness to accepting both ordained men and women."

Both Crouch and Crawford expressed fear the trustee board is coming to represent mainly one political-theological faction in the Southern Baptist Convention. They said they could not ask for money as members of the development council if they have doubts about the board.

"I find it hard to ask for money if I have no confidence in the process," said Crouch. "I will be glad to reconsider and look at it. But first I want some assurance this board plans to be fair and not let associations (of Baptist churches) run over us."

"I can't find it in my heart to ask for money if people in my own church, which includes ordained women, are not eligible for foreign missions appointment," Crawford said. "I'll need to see how the subcommittee's action flies over a period of time."

Those comments reflect the view of people who have written to protest the subcommittee's June 27 action.

Corts said board leaders have received more than 300 letters, virtually all protesting the subcommittee action on grounds it rejected the Penningtons because of her ordination and because the committee knuckled under to pressure from Enon Association. Letters also accused trustees of ignoring the autonomy of the local church, violating the principle of cooperative missions, overriding a staff recommendation favoring the Penningtons, and adhering to only one political viewpoint.

Mrs. Pennington, minister of preschool education at the Oklahoma church, was ordained to the ministry in 1986 at the request of the church despite protests by Enon Association. The association dismissed the church from its membership. Greg Pennington, the church's minister of education, was ordained at the same time.

Corts and subcommittee Chairman Paul Sanders of Little Rock, Ark., said the rejection of the Penningtons was based on the subcommittee's view that the couple had not handled her ordination redemptively, resulting in disruption of fellowship. They said the action by the Penningtons created concern that they also might fail to defer to other Christians in delicate situations that might cause trouble on the foreign mission field.

"You may choose to follow your convictions, but you may not choose whether you will suffer the consequences or not," Corts said. "Consequences are going to fall if I follow my conviction. Christians have a tension between the imposition of our Christian liberty versus our responsibility to defer to our brother. I think that's a very common tension."

The Penningtons' pastor at Northwest Baptist, William Johnson, and former pastor, Phil Christopher, now of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., attended the trustee meeting. They said Northwest Church asked Mrs. Pennington to consider ordination after a two-year study of the subject and that she experienced "God's call in that direction."

Allowed to speak to the subcommittee, Johnson and Christopher said

they described the Penningtons as gentle, caring people who want to be "submissive, not subversive." They denied the couple had created divisiveness.

According to its written statement, the subcommittee "reiterated that neither Katrina's ordination nor letters from the association were the primary reason for its recommendation. The committee, with one exception, had no advance knowledge of her ordination. Two letters received from Enon Association were received by the (FMB) staff, but not read by the committee."

Both letters opposed appointment of the Penningtons.

Sanders said only one subcommittee member, Gary Smith of Enid, Okla., had read the letters before the vote, since he was a trustee from Oklahoma, the Penningtons' home state.

The subcommittee statement expressed "deep appreciation for the Penningtons and their ministry" and added: "We are not doubting their call or sincerity, but need additional clarification. We regret the confidential process has moved into the public arena. We request (FMB) staff to continue confidentially consulting with the Penningtons to clarify substantive issues, working toward a recommendation to the committee even before the normal two-year waiting period if appropriate."

The subcommittee's action came after it heard Johnson and Christopher and "the concerns of several board members, including one who personally met with the Penningtons." That trustee, Barbara Cunningham, a pastor's wife and former missionary from Houston, spoke on the Penningtons' behalf.

Corts said issues involved in the personnel consultation process must remain confidential and that any decision to reconsider the Penningtons will depend on timing and response deemed appropriate by the couple and the FMB staff.

"We all were dealing with a difficult and misunderstood situation," Corts said. "We were committed to a difficult balance in maintaining the integrity of the confidential process, the integrity of the staff, the integrity of the subcommittee, and the integrity of the Penningtons."

Greg Pennington's statement responding to trustee action said: "Katrina and I would like to say that we are delighted that the door is still open for us to serve as missionaries. We are confident that in personal consultation with the staff and/or trustees we can clarify or resolve anything that might keep us from being appointed in the future."

"We are grateful that the trustees were receptive to reconsideration."

Katrina and I have been humbled by the outpouring of support from our family, church, and other concerned Southern Baptists around the world. We wish to thank publicly our pastor and former pastor . . . for speaking out on our behalf. And we are grateful for the opportunity the subcommittee gave them to speak."

Robert O'Brien writes for the FMB.

Thousands respond at Budapest crusade

(Continued from page 3)

other," he said, because "the nations have to build bridges among those people who are separated for political or religious reasons. The Baptists are going ahead in a good example of this, going from spirit to spirit, because the message of salvation is for the total man, for his physical and spiritual heritage."

Referring to the congress theme, "Come See What God Has Done," Szuros also urged participants to note the social and political changes taking place in Hungary that guarantee religious and spiritual freedoms.

A new bill being presented in the national assembly, he said, will ban discrimination because of religious beliefs or confessions.

Even while the Baptist congress was going on, the Hungarian Communist Party announced July 29 that it will no longer require party members to be atheists and will cease interfering in church affairs.

Szuros' speech was praised as "historic" for Hungary by Janos Viczian, president of the Baptist Union of Hungary. "Our political situation has changed," Viczian said. "We have a real reform situation in Hungary."

Viczian himself is a national assembly member because of his post as president of the Council of Free Churches in Hungary, an organization representing eight church groups, including Baptists, Methodists and others.

Reform, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches and Jewish groups have their own assembly representatives.

Szuros has urged Communist Party members to accept Christian people and "to live together," Viczian said. Szuros and several other government leaders have shown kindness and a desire to work with religious people, Viczian added.

Hungary has been a leader in reform among the socialist countries, and now at least some of them are looking to Hungary for more leadership, he said.

In another evidence of the new political conditions in Eastern Europe, more than 600 East German Baptists, as well as representatives

from most other Eastern European countries, were permitted to attend the Congress.

Only small groups came from some countries, however, because of restrictive currency laws, visa difficulties and other problems.

And reminders came that not all is well yet. The congress program, giving details on Baptist groups in Europe, stated of Albania, "In Albania it is forbidden to practice any religion."

Still, the Budapest meeting was a concrete expression of the new post-Cold War era in Europe, said Knud Wumpelmann during a press conference.

Wumpelmann is completing a nine-year term this year as European Baptist Federation general secretary.

During the congress, several Baptist leaders met with Trautmann Rezo, deputy prime minister of Hungary's Presidium, the government's central committee. In welcoming the Baptists, Rezo said: "As you know, there is such a transforming process in our country which will affect almost all of our political, social, economic and cultural institutions, as well as our relationships with each other."

"It will naturally affect on the one hand the relationship between you and the state, on the other hand the relationship among the churches, and according to my opinion, this effect will be favorable in both directions."


Present for the meeting were Australian G. Noel Vose, president, and American Denton Lotz, general secretary, of the Baptist World Alliance; Peter Barber of Scotland, new European Baptist Federation president; and West German pastor Karl-Heinz Walter, newly elected general secretary of the federation.

Delegates touring Budapest, a city of 2.1 million people situated on the Danube River, found no bread lines. Instead, shops and department stores were filled with throngs of Hungarian and tourist shoppers taking advantage of Hungary's low prices. Record stores and designer clothing shops were doing brisk business. A McDonald's hamburger restaurant was filled with customers.


Does your church need a **SOUND SYSTEM?**
Let our professionals help!
Call 1-800-227-5486
Roseberry Piano House
Hattiesburg, MS

FOR CHURCHES ONLY
BUILDING MONEY
BELOW PRIME
call BOB CRAWFORD
(901) 757-2449

PASTOR... Moody Press reprint of Preston Taylor's 20 ch. 200 pp. **Philippines: Joy In Jesus.** Well-illustrated... Expository. Postpaid... \$4.95
INSPIRATION BOOKS
P.O. Box 1234
Big Wells, TX 78830

FOR CHARTER OR RENT 
25 - or 47 -
Passenger buses
BUS SUPPLY CO. INC.
McComb, MS 601-684-2900

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.
Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery
Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627
We remodel & paint

Let the world's largest builder of **CHURCH ORGANS** work for you

Allen Organs
Beautiful pipe organ sound without the expensive cost of pipes. From the smallest to the largest church installation.
Call 1-800-227-5486
Roseberry Piano House, Inc.
Hattiesburg, MS

Confused About Life Insurance?
Why not buy the most life insurance for the least amount of money?
Example: Male, 60, non-smoker
\$100,000
For only **\$32.56** per mo.
Call Don Mahaffey
9:30am to 4:30pm ET Mon.-Fri.
Toll Free 1-800-367-5492

WADECO STUDIOS
P.O. Box 773
Blakely, Georgia 31723
STAINED GLASS - PAINTING - RENOVATION
WATERPROOFING - STEEPLE WORK
(912) 723-4235

"The Piano Place"
Select your new or used piano from our large stock of famous name brands. Save substantially on spinet, console or baby grand pianos.
Factory authorized dealers for:
Steinway • Kawai • Kimball • Wurlitzer • Weber

Allegrezza Piano Company
Nina Barker, Manager • 856-2524
226 Highway 51 N. • Ridgeland, MS
2 miles North of County Line Road

Fall Festival of Marriage set

Fall Festival of Marriage in the New Orleans Fairmont Hotel is co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Family Ministry, Louisiana Family Ministry and the New Orleans Seminary Continuing Education Department. Interested couples in Mississippi may receive more infor-

mation by writing Mississippi's Family Ministry, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or telephone 968-3800. The dates are Sept. 15-17, beginning Friday night and ending Sunday noon with some free time on Saturday. No provision is made for children.



DOM paints Curtis grave site

J. Paul Jones, director of missions for Mississippi Association, is shown above with a painting he made of the grave site of Richard Curtis, the founder of Baptist work in Mississippi. The marker at the grave site was erected in the mid 50s and was purchased with funds provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The painting is to be hung in the archives of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. The grave is located on property owned by Homer Smith of the Liberty area and near Ebenezer. He also helped to organize the Mississippi Association in 1806 with six churches. Jones has been painting for about 2½ years.

Associational officers' training planned for four locations

The Associational Officers Training Conferences (A.O.T.) will be held at four locations around the state. The first conference begins Saturday, Aug. 19, at First Church, Oxford. The other conferences will be Monday, Aug. 21, First Church, Brandon, Tuesday, Aug. 22, First Church, Winona, and Thursday, Aug. 24, First Church, Columbia.

The directors of missions and moderators will have a joint conference led by Don Wilson, associational administration consultant, MBCB. The clerks conferences will be led by Melody Hamilton in Oxford and Winona, and by Judy Hardy in Brandon and Columbia. Sunday School will have conferences for all age-groups and ASSISTeam leaders.

Keith Mee of the Sunday School Board, will teach the training sessions for media library, Discipleship Training (Church Training) will have ses-

sions for all age-groups including Bible Drill leaders.

J. Clark Hensley will conduct the conferences for senior and single family ministry officers. Church Music will have conferences led by L. Graham Smith, Danny Jones, Dot Pray and Sarah Talley, all of MBCB, for music directors, officers, keyboard directors, and age-group directors.

Woman's Missionary Union will hold conferences for all their directors and Jean Bond will lead the mission study institute. Missions development conferences will include AMDP directors, promotional directors, survey directors and component program leaders.

Conferences will also be held for stewardship, Brotherhood, evangelism, pastoral ministries and Christian action.

For further information, contact the local associational office.

First, Okolona to celebrate 140th year

First Church of Okolona, will celebrate its 140th anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 20.

Regular morning worship services will place emphasis on the heritage of the church and the Christian faith. Charles Jolly, who was ordained by the church, will bring a message. The oldest member of the church, Mrs. Bula Roberts, who will be 100 years old in September, will receive recognition.

The congregation will then adjourn to the fellowship hall for "dinner on grounds." Many old items used by the church will be on display. Old pictures will be part of this display.

An hour tri-part program will follow lunch. Joanna Carter, dressed in old-fashioned costume, will give a thumb-

nailed sketch of the history of the church. Judge Kenneth Coleman will give the latter part. Roy McHenry, present pastor, will speak on the future of the church.

No evening services will be held on this date.

A frame building with stained glass memorial windows was erected during the pastorate of R.A. Venable. The congregation worshipped in this sanctuary until 1924. This building was disposed of, and the present two-story brick building with a basement was begun. W. O. Blount was pastor. The first service in the main auditorium was July 1930.

Seven young ministers have gone out from First Church in the last 40 years. They are Joe Jolly, Jr., Charles

Attempt to fire Elder . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Executive Committee faced an emergency in paying the debt for construction of the four-year-old SBC Building.

The program and budget subcommittee had announced that, in light of a shortfall in capital funds and Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget giving, it would reduce the 1989-90 allocations to each agency by 2.05 percent and apply about \$2 million off the top of Cooperative Program receipts to the building debt retirement.

Acting on that information, the Sunday School Board trustees approved the \$400,000 gift with the stipulation that none of the funds were to go to replace the funds cut from the budget of the Baptist Joint Committee.

When the Executive Committee met the following week, a move was made to delete \$340,000 more of the Baptist Joint Committee's budget and redistribute it to some other SBC entities.

Elder reported to Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett that if the Executive Committee had discretionary use of the budget funds, then the emergency appeal had been misrepresented to the Sunday School Board and its trustees might want to reconsider the \$400,000 gift.

The subsequent vote by secret ballot on redistribution of the SBC budget failed by a one-vote margin and Elder's word to Bennett was interpreted as political manipulation by some.

Elder explained to the general administration committee that he had not violated the board's directive in the matter of the \$400,000 gift and the committee accepted his explanation. As a part of the statement presented to the full board, the committee asked Elder to present his explanation.

In his presentation, however, Elder, who said he was not sent copies of Holly's mailing but had obtained a copy on his own, went beyond the matter of the gift to respond to other charges made by Holly.

He said he was concerned that all of the members of the general administrative committee were agreed on their perception of his political activity. He said he felt he could explain each instance cited if given the time to set the context.

He denied Holly's implications, however, that a crisis exists in board leadership or his relationship with the trustees.

Elder also was asked to explain instances interpreted as political involvement. During that explanation, Knott made his motion for dismissal.

He asked that Elder be dismissed as president and the office declared vacant. Knott said Southern Baptists look to the Sunday School Board to carry out their wishes, and the trustees have one way to control the board — through the election of a president.

"The only question we have is, 'Do we have the best man in the president's chair, the best man to reflect the convention's wishes, the best man for the job?'" Knott said.

He charged that in Elder he had seen a pattern of behavior "at times openly hostile, sometimes less, but always resistant to new or newer trustees."

Holly, who in his history of Elder's presidency, said it was "imperative" the board "be led by a man who will walk in concert with the great presidents being elected by our convention," supported Knott's motion for dismissal.

Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Fla., spoke against the motion as did Collins, who compared it to using a nuclear weapon. "We don't have to deal with this in such a catastrophic way," he said.

C.B. Scott, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pound, Va., spoke for it and also defended Holly, saying that had not Holly raised the questions someone else would have. He said the real issue is literature, that in his opinion the SBC has the best methods but is not producing literature that is on the cutting edge of evangelistic outreach.

"We need someone at the head (of the SSB) who understands that," Scott said, supporting the motion to dismiss

Elder.

A series of parliamentary moves developed, with calls for a ballot vote, then a secret ballot, then a move to table, another for prayer before the vote, and another to postpone action until the following morning.

Trustees disagreed over which motion took precedence. A vote on tabling the motion, supported by Knott, lost by a 47-31 vote. Another on a 15-minute recess was defeated 43-32.

Then Knott rose and asked that his motion be withdrawn. He later told the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newsjournal, that he had been encouraged by others around him to make the withdrawal.

Argument followed as to whether the motion was still Knott's or belonged to the body at that point.

Nolan Kennedy, trustee and attorney from Monterey, Calif., said board members owed it to Elder, who had sat through all the discussion, to tell him what they thought.

Holly replied that a vote not to dismiss Elder would not be a vote to affirm him, a point also made by Swinson.

In the midst of the debate, Chairman Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla., put the withdrawal motion to the board and it was approved by voice vote.

Hultgren told the Standard later that he considered the outcome a "victory" for the board and affirmed it of Elder's leadership. In his opinion, the letters sent out prior to the meeting had called for Elder's dismissal, and avoiding that was a "clear victory," he said.

Toby Druin is associate editor of the Baptist Standard.

Carey arranges bridge loan

William Carey College has arranged a "bridge loan" totaling \$300,000 to allow fall programs to begin on schedule, according to interim president Jim Edwards.

The loan, from two unnamed South Mississippi banks, "allows us to meet mid-August payrolls and continue to work on longer-term solutions with the convention, financial institutions, and other supporters who want to help the college become financially viable again," said Edwards.

He said the loan will be repaid out of fall semester fees and August allocations from the convention.

Edwards said that "undergraduate programs will be offered at all campuses — Hattiesburg, Gulf Coast, and New Orleans — and for our graduate students and National Guard classes

around the state."

Edwards noted that the loan, which is only for 30 days, will help the financially-troubled college "while the negotiations continue with convention leaders to solve the long-term needs of the college," he said.

Said Edwards, "I am confident we will soon find an way collectively to provide an overall financial strategy to make William Carey College again a healthy, viable part of the family of Mississippi Baptist institutions."

He added, "Students can continue to pre-register and enroll for the fall semester with the expectation of a good year ahead. Eighty new students were pre-registered at an orientation program and others are being pre-advised by phone."

Revival dates

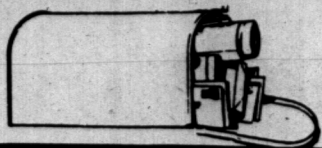
Jericho, Baldwin: Aug. 16-20; lay-led revival; 7:30 p.m.; David Singleton, Brookhaven, leading; Wayne Frederick, pastor.

First, Byhalia: lay-led revival; Aug. 20-25; services, 11 a.m.; 7:30, nightly; messages brought by layman; Sun. a.m., Talmadge Littlejohn, former District Attorney for the Third Judicial District; Sun. p.m., Thomas Randle, doctor at Baptist Hospital, Oxford; Mon., George Bristow III; Tues., Paul Crawford, service manager, Nissans Motors, Memphis, Wed., Phillip Campbell; Thurs., Rick Douglass, Memphis, Federal Express; Fri., Delane Andrews, deacon, Byhalia. Ken McMillen, pastor.

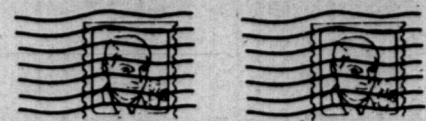
Oak Grove (Mississippi): Aug. 20-25; homecoming, Sunday, dinner on grounds, singing at 1 p.m.; Harvey Deer, former pastor, speaker; Mon.-Fri., John Adams, pastor, Good Hope (Franklin) preaching; 7:30 p.m.; Burnett Carraway, music; Cindy Hughes, pianist.

Airport, Grenada: Aug. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30; Paul Blanchard, former pastor, Eulaton, Anniston, Ala., preaching; Jimmy Hood, Hebron, Grenada, music.

Good fences make good neighbors comfortable while they gossip. — SUN, Ellaville, Ga.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Thanks for assistance

Editor:
On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the International Visitors Center of Jackson, I would like to take this time to express our gratitude for your assistance with our recent international guests from Denmark, Germany, and France.

They left the state with a true feeling of friendship and increased knowledge. We feel that your time was paramount in achieving this. They asked us to express their appreciation to you and all who participated in the program.

Thank you again for assisting the International Visitors Center of Jackson. With your continuing support we will be able to bring in more internationals for discussions of this type.

Sincerely,
Don E. Slabach
Executive Director
The International
Visitors Center of Jackson

The church pianist

Editor:
I am writing in hopes that this letter will help a lot of Mississippi Baptist churches become aware of the injustice they are doing to their church

pianist. We, for the most part, are not paid employees; we play because we love to play and want to give our gift to the Lord. We are asked (expected) to play for all church functions, which include weddings and funerals. When we play for funerals, we have to clock out at our places of employment and lose those hours of salary. In my case, I have to drive out into the country to play for a funeral and usually lose about two hours on the time clock.

Now, here is the injustice: when revival time comes around, the church gets someone else to play, robbing the regular church pianist of the honorarium. Those honorariums are the only way we ever recover the hours lost on the time clock. This is wrong, and pastors need to see this. Also, pianists who are cutting in on us need to see that this is wrong; and it only causes hurt feelings.

I doubt that this will change in my church, but I will keep on playing when called upon, because I love my people and will do anything to help them. Perhaps this will help some other churches and church pianists who are experiencing the same thing.

Perhaps you are thinking that I am not capable of playing; well, I'm a good church pianist with college training in piano.

Name withheld by editor

Lung transplant needed

Editor:

Our church is presently involved in a special fund raising campaign to help save the life of one of our members. Rev. Herman Johnson is a retired Southern Baptist pastor in our membership. His health has continued to decline for the past 3½ years that I have known him. Now, the doctors have informed him that a double-lung transplant is essential for him to live.

It may be verified through the University Medical Center that the estimated cost for this procedure and rehabilitation will exceed \$120,000. (The University Medical Center is where Rev. Johnson has been receiving treatment and where the transplant will take place). Rev. Johnson does not have insurance to cover this financial need. Only this week has he been placed on an emergency list for a donor to be located.

It will take a miracle for this amount of money to be raised. We have made his need known to all the churches and the general public in our area. They are all responding well. Contributions are made to the Herman Johnson Transplant Fund at the Hancock Bank in Poplarville. If, for unforeseen reasons, Rev. Johnson could not have the transplant, all proceeds in this account would be given to the American Lung Association.

Because we are seeking all avenues of assistance, we would like to ask for your help. Would you please make this

a matter of prayer?

I will be more than willing to provide any additional information you may need.

Bill Hardin, pastor
Ford's Creek Baptist Church
Route 1, Box 81B
Poplarville, MS 39470

Commendations

Editor:

You are to be commended for the calm, clear, and factual manner in which you replied to the letters of Ken Alford and Bob Sheppard in the issue of 7/20/89.

William G. Watson
Clinton

Women pastors

Editor:

Mr. Ken Pickens of Vicksburg (July 13) and Mr. Michael Simpson of Clinton (June 22) state that my letter of July 8 was to re-write Paul's letter to Timothy. This is NOT true. Based upon the average woman's education today, I stated that IF the Timothy letter were re-written by the Apostle Paul today, then other things being equal, the woman today has been elevated from "kitchen and children chores" to professional jobs (lawyers, physicians, judges, etc.) and world leadership roles (prime ministers). Today, the woman is a well qualified person and leader.

Dr. W. A. Criswell in his interview with Bill Moyers on the TV (E.T.V.) cites only I Timothy 3:2, as WHY women should NOT serve as a bishop/pastor. I disagree with Dr.

Criswell as stated in my letter of June 8.

Today, if a woman believes in her heart she is "called of God to preach His word," I believe she should preach. God calls and supports his own! It is God's final decision WHO HE CALLS.

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

God forbid it should burn

Editor:

I do not know what the Mississippi Baptist Record has said on the issue of this flag burning bit. I am here to offer up my opinion on what we could do as a proud nation and allow our flag to wave.

We have radio stations throughout the United States that are taking up names on petitions to send into Washington, D.C. to make an amendment, or law, that would make it illegal to desecrate our American flag. I pray that we as Christians, to preserve the God-given rights and freedom, would set up a petition in each church of the United States; send all of the petitions to Congress; and, likewise, make it illegal to desecrate our American flag.

Though the flag may only be a symbol, just as God is the father of the country, men have fought hard for our freedom, for our country, and for our flag. The flag is our most prized symbol of the United States that exists today. To make it legal for our flag to be burned would make the fighting near all for naught. We do have our
(Continued on page 10)

Dabbling in the occult

"If they start to wear a lot of black . . ."

By Terri Lackey
RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Parents should not ignore their sons or daughters when they suddenly begin to wear black torn clothing, listen to heavy-metal music and undergo noticeable personality changes, an expert on religious groups said.

Signs such as these may suggest a young person is dabbling in the occult, said Gary Leazer, director of the interfaith witness department at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"When their children start displaying abnormal behaviors such as this, parents usually don't know what to do, so they just don't do anything," said Leazer. "They see their son or daughter acting out these occultic things, and they may even know they are occultic, but they don't do anything because they think it's just a phase they are going through."

Occult, meaning hidden, is an umbrella term which covers a variety of diverse practices including astrology, magic and witchcraft, spiritualism and Satanism, Leazer said. Occult should not be confused with cult, which is a religious group that identifies with a parent group, but deviates in theology from its basic biblical doctrines.

Leazer is author of a new Equipping Center module, Understanding the Occult, which he taught during Church Training Leadership Conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers. The module, released in Ju-

ly, is produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church training department, whose name will change to the discipleship training department Oct. 1.

"Usually a person has to have low self-esteem to get into the occult," Leazer said. "One of the biggest personal appeals of the occult is that it offers power; it appeals to basic

human emotions.

"So if you have an individual who does not feel any personal power, say a teen-ager who is not doing well in school, the occult can say, 'I will give you power to succeed in life.' The largest majority of people who practice occultic behaviors are teenagers and young adults, Leazer said.

Many of them become involved in

the practice because of "a lack of communication with their parents and other responsible adults," he said.

"Kids don't get in to the occult just over night. If I find a family with a teen in the occult, one of the first things I look at are the parents."

"About 85 percent of the time trouble with the occult can be traced to a breakdown of communication bet-

ween parents and kids," he said. "It happens over the years, rather innocently. The parents get tired at work, they come home and read the paper."

"They just don't spend time talking with their kids."

Parents who fear their children may be dabbling in occultism should look for "sudden changes in dress or personality, the music they are listening to, and what they are watching or reading."

"If they start to wear a lot of black clothing, especially torn, that can be a sign of evil. Additionally, a lot of kids in the occult write their own, pretty detailed diaries about their activities in Satanism," Leazer said.

Even though a young person's occult practices might be a phase, Leazer said parents should not ignore it: "Parents ought not to assume it's a phase. They should sit down with their kids, say, 'I've noticed a change in you, and frankly I'm a little concerned and want to talk to you about how you are feeling.'"

"It may just be a phase, but I suggest parents get some help even if they might not need it."

Talking to a pastor or representatives at a local hospital with a crisis unit for young people would be a good start in getting help, he said.

Christians concerned about occultism should "first of all, be aware of its practices, and second, have a strong biblical foundation of life," he added. "And parents need to keep those communication lines with their children open."

Conservative Fellowship says . . .

(Continued from page 3)
evangelist in Jackson, "I'm weary of having the finger pointed at us when we are not guilty."

Concerning the Baptist Record, Billy Beckett, pastor of Shiloh Church, said he believed Editor Don McGregor's editorials "have not been ethical or honest of late." Sheppard said Paige Patterson, a conservative leader from Texas, has challenged McGregor to a debate. Sheppard offered air time on a Jackson radio station.

Causey, asked about the Baptist Record's editorials, said that there could be only one editor and that the policy makes the Record much like a commission within the framework of the convention with the editor having an advisory committee with which to confer on editorial matters.

Asked about the solution to William Carey College's financial problems, Causey said he believes "in the next week or two you will read the problems have been solved." He said he could assure that "no Cooperative Program money is going to the solution." Causey compared the request for special funding from Carey's board to the convention board's budget committee to similar situations in the business world: "You don't set up the parent corporation so that one of the subsidiaries can take the parent under."

Concerning his ideas for operation of the convention board, Causey said that he wants to "find a way to dovetail every program Mississippi Baptists have . . . into winning Mississippi to Jesus."

A committee was formed to deal with the Baptist Record.

Discussion was made on "The Flag" publication of the conservative group and ways to do mass mailings. About 400 copies of the current issue were mailed.

Halfway through the meeting, Bill Causey walked in along with Guy Henderson. Causey is new executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Henderson is director of evangelism for the board.

Sheppard invited Causey to speak to the group and Causey offered to dialogue with them. Sheppard said there was "too much salary in the Baptist Building." Causey disagreed, offering to get any information concerning salaries or any other matter to questioners.

Champion of senior adults joins ranks upon retirement

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE — A champion of Southern Baptist ministries with senior adults officially joins the ranks of those who have been recipients of his service as he enters a world of no alarm clocks and realizes dreams of all-day golfing.

Horace Kerr, manager of the senior and single adult section in the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department, retired Aug. 1 after 13 years in that position.

Kerr said he came to the board in 1976 for the sole purpose of launching a new ministry for senior adults. The family ministry department, which had been established in 1975, then added the single adult program in 1979 and gave it to Kerr to administer.

Kerr's book, *How to Minister to Single Adults in Your Church*, and a book, co-authored by Kerr, *How to Start a Single Adult Ministry in Your Church*, both have played large parts in giving churches guidelines in setting up these two ministries.

Since Kerr has been at the board, he has watched the number of senior

adult Chautauquas grow from three each fall to 14.

The same thing is happening at Memorial and Labor Day conferences offered to single adults, he said.

Kerr drew his knowledge on aging adults from a background in state government where he was executive director of the Mississippi Council on Aging from 1972-76.

He had also worked with senior adults as minister of education at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., 1959-72.

While working as a minister of education, Kerr took classes in law and received his doctor of jurisprudence degree at age 46 in 1970.

"I really think I wanted to see if I was smart enough to do something else," Kerr said of his desire to earn a law degree after 20 years as minister of education.

A native of Louisville, Miss., and the son of parents who were deaf "and not Baptists until much later in life," Kerr said he was taken to First Baptist Church each Sunday by his Aunt Maude.

After he graduated from Mississippi College, he received a master of religious education degree at Southwestern Seminary. He then obtained his law degree from the Jackson School of Law (now Mississippi College School of Law.)

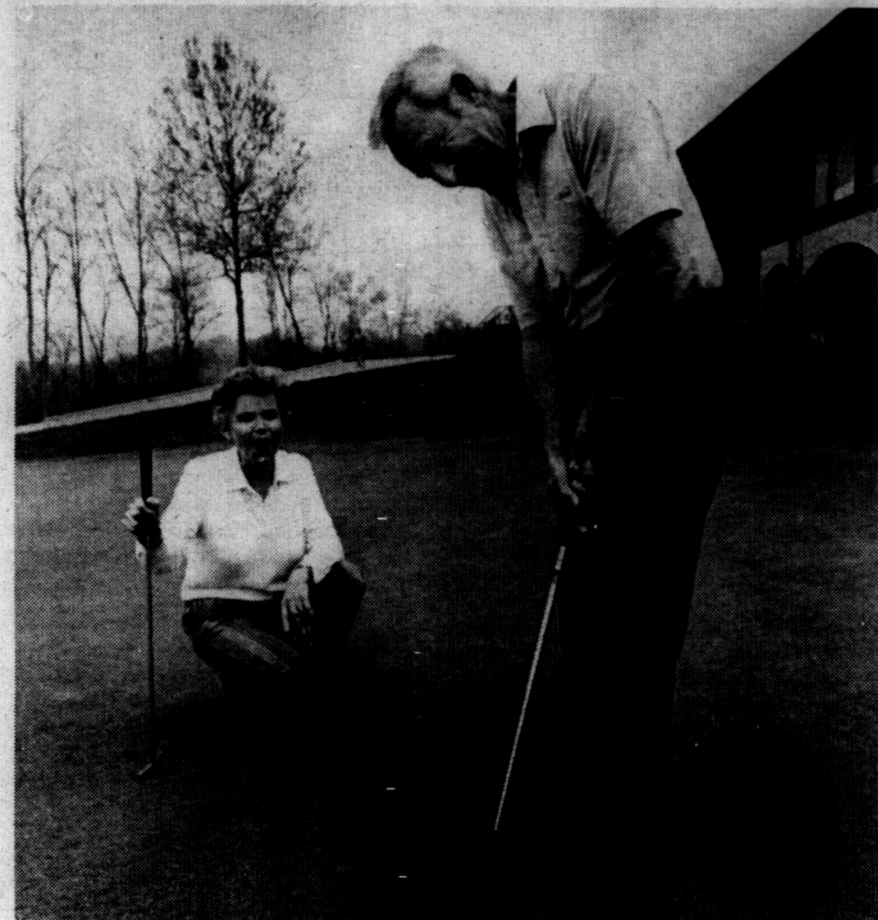
Even in retirement Kerr hopes to continue working with senior adults by leading seminars, conferences and workshops. He will coordinate two weeks of Chautauquas at Glorieta this fall.

But Kerr plans to spend most of his time on the golf course with his wife, Dot, who will also retire this year.

The Kerrs have built a house on the fringes of Castlewood Golf Club in Jackson, Miss., and plan to live in retirement in their native state.

With seven grandchildren (three of them in Jackson), a wife as active as he and several hobbies, including bread baking, hunting, photography and wood working, Kerr said he believes his retirement at age 65 will provide "plenty to do."

Lackey writes for BSSB.



NASHVILLE — Horace Kerr, manager of the Baptist Sunday School Board family ministry department senior and single adult section, and wife, Dot, play an afternoon game of golf, a sport both plan to enjoy in retirement. — Jim Veneman photo

Mississippi WMU volunteers complete mission to Argentina

By Rena Emerson

On July 9, six Mississippi women gathered at the Jackson airport, destination Argentina. They were (team leader) Jean Bond, Starkville; Cindy Haralson, Forest; Dot Dollar, Brandon; Mitzi Todd, Clinton; Inez Leach, Brandon; and Rena Emerson, Charleston. Our mission was to go to Thea, (campgrounds) Villa Bautista near Cordoba, Argentina, to teach Vacation Bible School to missionary kids while their parents attended business meeting of the Argentina Baptist Mission. We were enlisted for this FMB project through Mississippi WMU. These were joined in Atlanta by Judy Hensley of Memphis and David Balyeat of Dallas. In Atlanta, we were a little apprehensive when David did not show up until take-off time, but when someone chirped, "Anyone for Argentina?" we knew the MK we were depending on to help us through Argentina customs had arrived.

Buenos Aires was fogged in; we had to land in Resistencia to sit for five hours before going in.

VBS began at 8:30 each morning, and the children were full of life and energy. We had a "chica" (teen-age Argentine girl) who helped us serve refreshments, took the children for recess and music each morning. We used our children for interpreters to communicate with her. All of them could speak Spanish, and one of our little girls could not read in English.

The volunteers were placed in cabins at Thea with the missionaries and their families. The cabins had a nice lobby with a large fireplace; an inviting wood fire burned brightly at all times. My partner, Cindy, and I were given a room in Ruyan with parents and teen-agers. The teens had their sessions in the lobby (it wasn't conducive to sleep).

After the evening meal, we assembled in the mission hall, and had testimonies, awards, and childrens' musicals. The "All-Year Birthday Party" was a highlight of one

night, as we took each month of the year, had all children born that month to light a candle on their cake.

Saturday night the missionaries had a banquet where they were served and entertained by the youth. The children, 5-12, had a weiner roast. The "Just Clowning Around" party was climaxed by a marshmallow roast outside. One father thanked us for thinking of this because his children had never had a marshmallow roast. They do not have marshmallows in Argentina.

Wednesday, after our last session of Bible school, Leon and Jean Champion (children's coordinator) and another missionary with a van brought us back to Cordoba to return to B.A. for rest, shopping, and sight seeing.

Saturday, missionary pastor Robert Crockett came to the mission apartments where we were assigned, to take four of us to see the work he was

doing. He took us to the home of one of his deacons where they had begun the ministry in his living room. We saw the building they had rented until they outgrew it, then the tent they had used for revival, the mother church, and finally the mission they were working on in an upper middle-class section of B.A. The mother church would easily fit into the mission. All the allotted money from the FMB had been used and they were building as they could pay for it.

They had just put in plate glass windows and doors on the front, had a portable baptistry, and expandable building that the curtain could be moved back to another section when they had filled the front to capacity. We could see his visions and dreams for the future, and considered it a privilege to see and hear about them.

He also took us to his home, served coffee and expressed his gratitude for the nice home and car the Cooperative Program provided for them to use.

East Morton (Scott): Aug. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Walter Fowler, pastor, Oak Level, Ocoee, Fla., evangelist; Leroy Stuart, music; Tommy May, pastor.

Kolola Springs, Caledonia: Aug. 20-24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30; G. C. Sansing, evangelist; Charles Farrar, music; Don Harding, pastor.

Williamsville (Attala): Aug. 20-25; Sunday, 11, covered-dish meal at noon, followed by afternoon service; no evening service; Mon.-Fri., noon (covered dish) and 7:30 p.m.; Jim Keith, Richardson, Tex., evangelist; W. W. Holifield, Taylorsville, music; Tom McCurley, pastor.

Mount Horeb, Meridian: Aug. 20-24; Danny Lanier, evangelist, guest speaker; Brad Jones, music director; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; services, Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.

Second Kosciusko: Aug. 20-25; 7 each night; Glenn Kelley, pastor, Temple, Jackson, evangelist; Chuck McMinn, minister of music, First, Lexington, music; James D. Dodds, pastor.

Meadow Grove, Brandon: Aug. 20-23; 7:30 each evening; Tim Williams, evangelist, presents Gods Challenge to America; Randy Lamb in concert; Mon., 6:30 p.m., kids explosion; Tues., 7 p.m., youth explosion; Wed., 7:30 p.m., family night; Rickey Kennedy, pastor.

Devotional Through a glass, clearly

By Ken Alford

I still have my class picture from the first grade. Of all the boys and girls grinning at the camera, one little fellow stands out because he is shown standing in front of the teacher, her hands on his shoulders. You guessed it: yours truly! Whether I was actually the "teacher's pet" or not is debatable, but I know one thing for sure: I loved Mrs. Clay.

My great affection for that dear lady made a situation ever the more painful one day in that first grade class. Mrs. Clay told us to put our heads down on our tables and have some quiet "rest" time while she went down to the office for a while. Soon after she had left the room, I began to "cut up" with the guys around me. In the midst of my misbehavior, I happened to glance over toward the door. To my shock and embarrassment, I saw Mrs. Clay looking through the little glass pane in the door. Looking right at me. I was in trouble! To this very day I can remember the chilling shame I felt at that moment when Mrs. Clay came back so unexpectedly.

That poignant and painful memory brings a spiritual reality to mind. One day our Lord Jesus Christ will quite suddenly peer through the window pane of time as he returns to the door of history to call us home. The Beloved Apostle shares this convicting word with us in I John 2:28: "And now little children, abide in him, that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

The awareness of an imminent return of our Lord should motivate all of us to godly living. Let's behave ourselves! The Teacher may return at any moment.

Alford is pastor, Morrison Heights, Clinton.

Revival dates

Arkadelphia, Bailey: Aug. 20-25; Sunday, homecoming, Edgar Lee Wright, former pastor and presently pastor of New Sight, Brookhaven, guest speaker; revival services, Mon.-Fri., 7 each evening; Bill Webb, revival preacher; Mrs. Senita Webb, music; David Odom, pastor.

Midway (Newton): Aug. 20-23; Mike Routon, evangelist; Marion Felton, music; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, regular times; Gary Killen, pastor.

First, Pass Christian: Aug. 20; Richard Bradley, Handsboro (Gulf Coast) preaching; services, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; special music by The Front Line from the coast; dinner on the grounds; Don Bearden, pastor.

Rena Lara (North Delta): Aug. 13-18; John Purvis, new pastor, preaching; Herman Furniss, music; services, Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Seminary, Seminary: Aug. 20-23; missions revival; Sunday at 11 a.m., Ray Grissett, director of the MBCB Cooperative Missions Department; Sunday at 7 p.m., Bob Storie, who directs ministries on the Gulf Coast; Mon.-Wed. at 7 p.m.; Monday, Dan Jones, missionary on furlough from Korea; Tuesday, summer missionaries from USM Baptist Student Union; Wednesday, Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission; Tim Turnham, pastor.

Just for the Record



Girls in Action of First Church, Cleveland, were recently recognized for their year of mission study and activities. Mission Adventure Charms were awarded to Barbara Kleis, Faith Sansone and Maggie McWilliams for earning all six GA badges. Pictured are (front row) Leigh Bridges, Amy Rowe, Laura Lyn Denton, Lindsay Harkins, Mary Clayton McWilliams, and Allyn Meador; (second row) Corey Fitzgerald, Heather

Harkins, Ann McWilliams, Jennifer Ford, Jennifer Hunter, Heather Shannon, Kelly Wilder, Reagan Meeks, Meg Goodman, and Barbara Kleis; (third row) Destin Fitzgerald, Rivers Smith, Mira Denton, Kathryn Meyer, Heather Miller, Faith Sansone, Mary JoAnn Peden, Elizabeth Odom, and Maggie McWilliams; and (back row) Myra Kleis, director, and leaders Lori Caves, Jerry Sansone, and Patsy Reese.



First Church, Lucedale, held a GA Recognition Service on May 21. The theme was "Study To Show Thyself Approved."

Mrs. Dolores Walker is GA director. Leaders are Stacey Hempstead, Peggy Curd, Tammie Caldwell, Linda Holland, Mary McAdory, Maxine Cochran, Nola Gilmore, Dianne DeVaughan, and Dewanda Platt. John L. Walker is pastor.

Pictured, left to right, first row, are Jenny Pitts, Joy Caldwell, Natasha Gilmore, Jennifer Bailey, Kristin

Smith, Selena Bullock, Roseann Harvey, Tracie Curd, Cassie Loftin, Kristy Taylor; second row: Michelle Schultz, Edie McEachern, Cassie Dixon; third row: Wendy Rhymes, Kelly Smith, Courtney Valentine, Christina Curd, Alisha Hempstead, Rosemary Roberts, Ragan McIntosh, Ashley Gilmore, Amy Holland, Kelly Nicholson; fourth row: Mandy McEachern, Robin Platt, Alison O'Neal, Cheryl Rowell, Sarah Fryfogle, Jeana Conner, and Brandye Dillon.



Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, held a Mother-Daughter Tea recently sponsored by the WMU. Top picture shows first and second grade GAs that were awarded badges. They are, back row, Maggie Heath, Miss Dana McCall, Lauren Ethridge, Anna Evert, Tina Ignozitto, Katie McNeely, Kimberly Watts, and Mrs. Gwynn Kilgore. Front row, Lauren Sample, Amanda Brown, Jamie Kilgore, and Joanna Booker.

Pictured, bottom left, are third and fourth grade GAs who received badges. They are, back row, Mary Elizabeth Pritchett, Teri Keyes, Mrs. Evalyn Haney, Danae Haught, Kirsten Devore, front, Emily Burton, Maria Kilgore, Leah Heath, and Rebecca Miller.

Pictured, bottom right, are fifth and sixth grade GAs who received badges.

Mothers were honored with poetry and flowers and the following were recognized: back row, Kyla Conlee, Mrs. Rosie Haught, Mrs. Beth Booker, Rebecca Blakeney, Shelly Conlee; front row, Laura Ingram, Amanda Burton, Kindra Clark, Leslie Milam, and Kasey Sample.



GA's of Cold Springs Church, Collins, had a combined mother-daughter banquet, and GA coronation service, June 13. The mothers were honored by the girls. The girls were recognized for their achievements in mission adventure.

Pictured, left to right, are Ashley Holder, Leann Mooney, Sonya Pickering, Dana Lott, Monica White, and April Bullock. Back row, leaders are Margie Strickland and Rachel Walker, Monica White and April Bullock also received charms.

Grace Church, Vicksburg, is celebrating its 50th anniversary, Aug. 20, beginning at 10 a.m. Special guests will be former pastors, ministers of music and youth, and others who have

gone from the church to serve in church related vocations. Services will conclude with note burning at 11:55 a.m. followed by lunch and fellowship. Ken Pickens is pastor.



**NOW! JOIN MULTITUDES OF
COMPUTERIZED CHURCHES**

EASILY & AFFORDABLY WITH THE

**AMIC CHURCH
ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM**

MEMBERSHIP • SUNDAY SCHOOL • PROSPECTS • FINANCIAL • STEWARDSHIP
MAIL MERGE • CHOIRS • ACTIVITIES • FAMILY MINISTRY • AND MUCH MORE

FULLY IBM COMPATIBLE

XENIX-BASED MULTI-USER SYSTEM!

Single-User MS-DOS Version Also Available

**QUALITY INSTALLATION, TRAINING & SUPPORT
ON-SITE DEMONSTRATION**

AMIC
MICRO SERVICES, INC.
"Computerizing Growing Churches Nationwide"

**CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-332-AMIC**
1110 Montclair Drive, S. 880
Mobile, AL 36609



**Come to the BEACH
For great Family Fun
on the GULF**

4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS

May 1-Sept. 5 1-4 persons Sundays
\$175.00* in room thru
plus tax Thurs

INCLUDES:

- 3 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATIONS
 - \$25 Food Allowance
 - Discount coupon for area attractions
- * (or any 3 nights; Sept. 6-Jan. 31 \$115;
Feb. 1-April 30, 1990 \$165)

Gulf-front, heated pool, beach, cable color TV, free HBO, spacious rooms, suites, dining room, entertainment, game room, children's play area. Year-round golf, fishing, sightseeing. 26 miles of white sandy beach. 2 blks. to Edgewater Shopping Mall (over 100 stores). Group rates, various package plans. Children under 18 free in parents' room.

**ASK ABOUT
OUR OTHER
PACKAGES:**
2, 3, 4, 5 nights,
for Golfers, and
Families, Couples,
Groups, Business
Travelers.

SEND FOR FREE BROCHURES

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TOLL-FREE

In MS. 800-654-1483

In US. 800-345-1570

**BILOXI BEACH
MOTOR INN**

2736 BEACH BLVD. DEPT. 297
601-388-3310

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI 39531

Letters From Carey

BY JIM EDWARDS
Interim President

No. 4-89

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31 KJV

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE?

"Eagles Don't Flock. You Find Them One At A Time."

Three different times over a 10-year period I heard those words, and each time they were life changing in significant and inspiring ways. The words were stated by the same man each time — H. Ross Perot. H. Ross Perot is one of the most incredible individuals living in the world today. As a young chairman of the Accounting Department at Texas Christian University I heard the words for the first time as Perot was talking about eagles in a speech given during 1969 to business leaders in Fort Worth, Texas. Perot was describing his philosophy about the kind of people he hired at Electronic Data Systems Corporation, a newly formed company of which he was founder and President. Moral character, family strength, patriotic and proud of our nation, commitment to personal integrity, and excellence and superior results were what eagles stood for in terms of company performance at EDS. Perot himself, was proud of his eagles and epitomized that philosophy in an inspiring way. As a result of Perot's philosophy, from that point forward some of his values and ideas also applied to what eagles stood for in terms of our hiring capable, exceptional, and exciting faculty at TCU — finding eagles one at a time.

The second time those words came from Ross Perot was in 1974 when I was MBA Program Director at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. SMU was negotiating with Perot for a major grant that he was considering as a gift to help the Business School become one of the best in the world. Perot would only support the best in education, or nothing at all. He believed education was a key to excellence and personal life-long fulfillment. Our School asked for \$10,000,000, and even though we didn't get it, the plan we developed for attracting students to the School raised our aspirations and visions to exceptional heights — finding eagles one at a time.

Sitting in Perot's office in 1980, — he now a billionaire and I a Mayor of Plano, Texas and a new vice president at financially-troubled Dallas Baptist University. Those words came a third time. Perot was asking Plano for 30,000,000 square feet of commercial/office and other zoning as part of a plan to move his corporate headquarters to our city. Plano was widely known for its high quality of life, and especially for the elementary and secondary school systems. Once again, education was a key part of Perot's major decisions related to "his people." Plano also needed a major business tax base to support its reputation as the nation's fastest growing community. Following some lengthy negotiations, compromises were reached and both goals were achieved. The long-term destinies of two "eagles" (one a company, the other a city) were joined to soar together — finding eagles one at a time.

"CAN EAGLES FLOCK?"

For years I have been a "searcher" of eagles, and have found some at Dallas Baptist University, some more at the SBC Radio and Television Commission, some really exceptional ones at Union University, and some in denominational leadership roles.

Is it possible that a lot of Carey alumni are eagles? My experiences thus far in meeting Carey alumni is that the answer is YES! They are all over the world — serving God and their individual callings through both career and character. They have had vocational callings in highly respected positions. Missionaries. Musicians. Medical Doctors. Teachers. Nurses. Ministers. Government Officials. Business Executives. Miss Mississippi Winners. Artists and Performers. More importantly, however, they have had character callings as highly respected Christian individuals. Integrity of decisions and the execution of those decisions in eagle flight patterns. Insight of creative and resourceful solutions to sensitive problems encountered during flight. Tenacity of spirit when weary wings are tired. Stamina of heart when feathers are drooping. Perseverance, even in times of peril, when storms rage in their lives and the institutions they support.

Many eagles came to William Carey College over the years from less than strengthened backgrounds and situations. First generation college students. Smaller churches and communities. Financially struggling backgrounds. Adult learners with families and demanding jobs. Teachers returning for graduate studies. Why did their eagle-excellence potential become kinetic at Carey? Because of people like Dr. Donald Winters who changed their lives forever at our College.

Though I never had the privilege of meeting Donald Winters, I know he was an eagle and a trainer of eagles. Visionary. Friend. Demanding and Gentle Counselor. Spiritual Mentor. Theoretician. Pragmatist. Convention and World-Wide Leader. He challenged, nurtured, and renewed strength, trained and inspired, and led innumerable Carey students and alumni to return to their home churches and elsewhere throughout the South, our nation, and the world. How do I know he was an eagle? Because his eagles flocked! At his memorial service a few weeks ago. They returned to Hattiesburg over 90-strong. They practiced for only an hour and they sang proudly and soared gloriously to honor his memory. Why? Once an eagle, always an eagle. They performed for one for whom they have profound love and respect. Donald Winters was an ultimate eagle, and is now held in the hand of the God he served through Christian education. Yes, flocking of eagles can happen — at Christian colleges like Carey!

"INVESTING IN EAGLES — WILLIAM CAREY ALUMNI"

Mississippi Baptists can be proud of their long-term investment in William Carey College. The amounts invested through the Cooperative Program allocations have been significant over the years. Despite the many many negatives people have rightfully focused on, including those in the Special Study Report of the Education Commission, the overall results — CAREY'S ALUMNI — are very very positive.

In recent weeks, I have begun meeting some of them and will soon meet many more. Who and where are some of the eagles of whom Carey can be justifiably proud? The list below is a partial example of what "investing in eagles" has produced for Mississippi Baptists through the College.

- CLASS OF '26 — MRS. JOHN MORRISON — Owner of Dairy Fresh Corporation in Alabama.
- CLASS OF '28 — DR. ELISE CURTIS — Vice Chair of Carey Trustee Board.
- CLASS OF '30 — DR. KATHERINE BOYD — Retired Speech Professor at Sul Ross University in Texas.
- CLASS OF '49 and '50 — RALPH AND CORA JOYCE DAVIS — Retired Southern Baptist missionaries to Ghana, living in Hattiesburg.
- CLASS OF '52 — BETTY HART — Missionary to Chile.
- CLASS OF '58 — BILLY SALTER — Superintendent of Education in Mobile.
- CLASS OF '63 — DR. RAY BURDESHAW — State Music Secretary, Alabama Baptist Convention.
- CLASS OF '64 — DR. JERRY BOONE — President of Ferrum College.
- CLASS OF '66 — EUGENE HATTAWAY — Minister of Music, FBC Knoxville.
- CLASS OF '66 — DR. JIM MCDILL — Audiologist in Mobile.
- CLASS OF '67 — JIM BLAKENEY — Youth Consultant, SBC Sunday School Board.
- CLASS OF '69 — DR. DELORES PFAFFENDORF ZELL — Governor's Office in Florida.
- CLASS OF '69 — VERMESTER JACKSON BESTER — Math teacher in Hattiesburg.
- CLASS OF '69 — DR. JAN DOUGLAS — Music faculty at Columbia University.
- CLASS OF '70 — THE HONORABLE MIKE PARKER — Congressman of 4th District in Mississippi.
- CLASS OF '71 — TOMMY EGGLESTON — National Consultant for Creative Arts, SBC Home Mission Board.
- CLASS OF '71 — JIM SMITH — Vice President with Charter Bank of Hattiesburg.
- CLASS OF '73 — DR. DOUG INGLIS — Executive — computer systems company in Spain.
- CLASS OF '74 — DIANE CREWS — Fine arts professor at Temple University.
- CLASS OF '74 — BOB TERRY — Executive with WLOX-TV in Biloxi.
- CLASS OF '77 — JAY ROGERS — Professional actor.
- CLASS OF '79 — BILLY BROWNING — Executive with Mississippi Power Company.
- CLASS OF '79 — THE HONORABLE LARKIN SMITH — Congressman of 5th District in Mississippi (and tragically killed in an airplane crash this week).
- CLASS OF '81 — MARY STANTON — Administrator with South Mississippi Home Health.
- CLASS OF '82 — STAN HARRIS — Lawyer on Senator Trent Lott's staff in D.C.
- CLASS OF '88 — LEO DAY — Graduate student in voice at Eastman School.

William Carey College is especially proud of the large number of alumni who are pastors, music directors and other ministers through the State of Mississippi and in many other states. They are leaders of small churches, rural churches, moderate and larger sized churches — all witnessing to a lost world for Christ. Many have served on Boards, Commissions, and Committees for the MBC and other Conventions. I've already met numerous Carey alums who are pastors and spiritual eagles with great strength, faith, and belief in God's plan of salvation for a lost world.

We are planning a Fall Homecoming on October 13-14 in Hattiesburg for all alumni. In addition to the people listed above, we hope there are many of Carey's alumni who will return. Most of them are still proud of their alma mater and still believe in the promise and potential that God has in mind for William Carey College — training even more eagles to soar in the high winds over the mountains of life. Because of all the difficulties and some of their experiences with the College, some of our alums have difficulty being proud and believing in the realization of that potential. If they can just look over the horizon the mountains we face have a cloak of magnificent color — God's rainbow of Hope, Faith, Promise, and a reason to believe. How do we know? Because God never sends an eagle out into a storm without its cloak for protection. For He is the creator of the rainbow — His eagle's umbrella from the rain. And even as His promising spectrum prism sparkles, Carey eagles are observing that the dawn of a new era is indeed coming closer for their College. Take courage eagles. Come home. Come home.

P.S. Next Week. Faculty Emeriti and other eagles of the past..

Mississippians respond to call in Kentucky



Crofton, Kentucky, is a small town 13 miles north of Hopkinsville. When their major source of revenue (a coal mine) was cut off, residents of Crofton had to leave the area to find work, or face poverty. The Baptist church there was over 200 years old and in a condition beyond repair. A new sanctuary was built, but lack of funds prevented the building of Sunday School rooms.

An appeal for help was made. Mississippi Baptists responded. June 24-30, a mission team of 71 built an education building for the Crofton Baptist Church. Arriving on Saturday, the team started with only a 7,300 sq. ft. foundation completed. Leaving on Friday, they had constructed a building, completely blacked in, all

wires pulled for electricity, the roof almost completed, and much of the sheet rock hung. All insulation was in place.

The mission team, headed by Terry Cross of The State Boulevard Church, Meridian, and Turner S. Pigford, First Church, Collinsville, was made up of 32 members of State Boulevard; 16 members of First, Collinsville; five from First Church, Marion; one from Lake; and one from Jackson. In addition, there were 15 from New Heights Church, Tuttle, Okla., and one from Nashville, Tenn.

The women of the team held two Bible schools with an enrollment of 43. Nine Bibles were given to children who had no Bible in their homes. The women also witnessed in over 74 Crofton homes.

Staff changes

Sonny Kelly has assumed the pastorate of Wheeler Church, Wheeler, effective July 9. He previously served Pleasant Ridge Church in Woodland for four years. He is currently working toward the doctorate of theology degree.

Mount Pleasant Church (Lincoln) has called Anthony Yarborough as pastor.

Thomas Wicker has accepted a call as pastor of Galilee First Church in Gloster. He goes to Galilee from Gum Grove Church in Lincoln County.

Rickey W. McKay has resigned as pastor of Valley Hill Church, Greenwood to assume the pastorate of Good Hope Church, Rt. 1, Batesville.

He began his service at Good Hope on June 17.

James Harrison has resigned the pastorate of First Church, Pearlinton, and has accepted a pastorate in Alabama.

Bill Gardner, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church, Lincoln County, has resigned and has accepted the pastorate of Terry's Creek Church, Pike County.

Thomas Wicker, pastor of Gum Grove, Lincoln County, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Galilee Church, Gloster.

Willie Wright has resigned at Westside Church, (Copiah), and has accepted the pastorate of Oak Grove Church, Simpson County.

R. L. Hullum has been called to Macedonia Church, Petal, as minister of music and activities. He goes to Macedonia from First Church, Petal.

Bolling retires at Macedonia

Robert Bolling has retired as minister of music at Macedonia Church, Petal, after 19 years of service. Bolling joined Macedonia in 1970 when the membership was small; today the membership totals over 500.

During these 19 years, Bolling has worked with all ages. He has taken youth choirs all over the south. He has also worked with several groups. The Joyful Noise, a youth ensemble, made an album under his direction. The Believers, a husband and wife singing and evangelistic group that toured the south and also made a recording, was started under the direction of Robert Bolling.

The church honored him on June 25 with Robert Bolling Appreciation Day. A "This Is Your Life" program was given on that Sunday night with many former members returning.

Byrd retires as Boyce dean

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — David Q. Byrd Jr., dean of Southern Seminary's Boyce Bible School, will retire from that position effective Dec. 31.

Byrd came to the Louisville, Ky., school in 1978 after 24 years as pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn. At Boyce, Byrd has directed a program that since 1974 has provided ministerial training for people without college degrees. In May, the school graduated its 500th student.

In addition to his pastorate in Jackson, the Brookhaven, Miss., native has been pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian, Miss.; Waddy Baptist Church, Waddy, Ky.; and Calvary Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, Ky. He is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Seminary.

Byrd has been on the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and has been a trustee of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board. He also has been on the Southern Baptist Committee on Boards and the Southern Baptist Committee on Committees. He is a former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Byrd plans to continue his service to Boyce by teaching a course there occasionally.

Flag burning

(Continued from page 6) freedoms; but we must preserve our most treasured red, white, and blue.

For the men who have burned our flag, for their unruly disrespect to our American freedom, I say, if you do not like the American flag and freedom, and for what it stands, get out of the country to somewhere else to a place you are proud to be a citizen of. Just because you do not like something, do not disrespect and ruin our symbols, freedom, and country we have fought for.

This freedom or right to burn the (our) American flag only seems to make a mockery of our God and forefathers who put this country on the map and gained our freedom. The forefathers did not mean to use the First Amendment to defend our attitudes on anything that came along such as this. They meant, in this case, for us to conduct ourselves as people united together for being proud under this country and to help others and encourage others. Why must we allow flag burning to take away our symbol of freedom?

Michael D. Thompson
Summit

Names in the news

Kevin Townsend, a junior at East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, Texas, served as summer missionary at West Bangor, New York.

He worked in two Bible schools, and did door to door surveying. He preached and served as Sunday School teacher. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Townsend of Bayton, Texas, formerly of Brookhaven.

Cowan Road Church, Gulfport, honored their pastor, Merrick Henry, and his wife with a reception on their first anniversary with the church.

J. Michael Scarborough was recently named the new Dean of Students at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. He replaces Woody Catoe, the school's first full-time Director of Student Affairs, who resigned earlier this year. Scarborough, 39, is a 1984 graduate of Southeastern. Most recently, he served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Thomasville, Ga.

Ray Files was licensed to preach on April 30 at Linwood Church, near Union. He plans to begin his studies this fall at Clarke College.



Leroy Helms, left, was voted to be a lifetime deacon at Parkway Church, Pascagoula. On July 9, the church presented him a plaque and his wife, Mrs. Grace, center, a corsage. Albert Wilkerson is pastor.



Sand Hill Church in Greene County licensed David E. Walley, left, to the gospel ministry on May 21. Walley, has served as the volunteer music director for over six years. Gary A. White is pastor.



James Janney, left, was licensed to preach on July 2, by Parkway Church, Pascagoula. The pastor, Albert Wilkerson, is also pictured.

EL PASO, Texas — Roberto Garcia Bordoli, a Baptist layman from Argentina, has been named director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, an arm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. He replaces Southern Baptist missionary Robert Tucker Jr., who transferred in May 1988 to teach at the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta. Garcia Bordoli had been associate general director of the publishing house since January 1988.



Bolivar builds in Ohio

Thirteen men, women, and youth left Cleveland July 8 for Gotion, Ohio, to work with the Springvale Baptist Church in the completion of a small education annex. The team contributed an approximate 550 hours to the project. In addition, Jewel Henderson and Betty Compton, with the assistance of two local women, conducted a Backyard Bible School. They had an enrollment of 18. The women also assisted with the drywall finishing and prepared the breakfasts. The team returned to Cleveland on July 15.

This was the 16th mission construction project sponsored by Bolivar Baptist Association, beginning in 1979. Ten have been outside of Mississippi. Five have been within Mississippi. One was in Honduras.

Those pictured above in the 1989 group are, front, Jason Krugler, Kevin Williams, Jewel Henderson, Betty Compton, Robert Haney; second row, Odis Henderson, Steve Kirkland, Jake Alford, Dow A. "Doc" Brown, W. H. Howarth, Carl Bullock, Charles Mosley, and Chris Kirkland.



Missionsfest

MISSISSIPPI

A FOREIGN MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 1989

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON

Friday evening through Saturday evening

Featuring:

- Dialogue sessions with Dr. R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president
- Testimonies and prayer needs from foreign missionaries
- New directions in foreign missions
- Tips on ways you and your church can be involved in missions
- Information on opportunities for missions service overseas
- Global Walkaround—the sights and sounds of missions, and one-on-one contact with missionaries
- Film Festival—the latest Foreign Mission Board videos and film features

(Co-sponsored by Mississippi Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Boaz and Ruth: compassion in action

By Billy R. Williams
Ruth 2:5-12, 19-20

The woman was without a job, divorced, and with two small children. When the pastor handed her a generous monetary gift from a couple within their church, she broke into tears. She sobbed, "I had asked God for his help because our needs are so great. Now I know he hasn't forgotten us. He's heard my prayers." The focal passage for this week likewise displays God's providential care as he works through the generosity and compassion of his people.



Williams

In verses 5-12, both the character of Ruth and the compassion of Boaz are revealed. Ruth's reaction to adversity is a good example for those who go through difficult times. She did not give up in the face of poverty but took action to meet the needs of her and Naomi, her mother-in-law. At her own initiative,

UNIFORM

Ruth began gleaning in the field of Boaz (verses 2-3). This custom was set forth by Mosaic law to provide for the needy in that the harvester was not to pick up the grain left after reaping but rather to leave it for the poor to glean (Leviticus 19:9; 23:22).

Ruth's humility and industriousness had caught the attention of Boaz's servant. When Boaz inquired as to whom the maiden was (verse 5), the servant shared that Ruth was a Moabite woman who had returned with Naomi; that she had sought permission to glean; and that she had worked steadily with only a brief break (verses 6-7).

Boaz's godly and compassionate nature manifested itself as he took action to alleviate the needs of Ruth. First, he appealed to her to abandon the customary practice of a gleaning from field to field and to remain in his field. Boaz assured Ruth that his workers would not

harm her and he gave her permission to drink from the water provided for his servants (verses 8-9).

Overwhelmed by the kindness of this stranger to her — a foreigner — Ruth, in an act of gratitude, bowed before Boaz, inquiring of him the reason for his graciousness (verse 10). Boaz informed Ruth that he was aware of her circumstances, and that his kindness was due to her faithful attachment to Naomi which had caused her to leave family and country (verse 11). Recognizing that Ruth's move was a step of faith, Boaz prayed that the Lord God would reward her fully for her trust in him (verse 12). However, Boaz was not content merely to evoke God's blessings on Ruth. He determined to do what he could to be sure that she was fully rewarded for her faithfulness and trust. Therefore, he allowed her to eat the noon meal with them, to glean even among the tied bundles of barley, and he instructed his servants to drop extra grain for her (verses 14-16). Christians confronted by human needs should pray, but they must also put "feet" to their

prayers. God may well intend to use them and their resources to meet those needs.

Ruth arrived home that evening with "an ephah" (a little more than a bushel) of barley and she shared with Naomi from her noon meal (verse 18). Naomi was amazed and she blessed the owner who had allowed Ruth to glean so lavishly (verse 19). When she heard that Boaz had been their benefactor, Naomi broke out in praise to God. By the kindness of Boaz the Lord's providential care was demonstrated convincingly. Naomi perceived that God had chosen and equipped Boaz to fulfill the role of their kinsman-redeemer. She and Ruth, "the living," were not forsaken, adverse circumstances notwithstanding. Through Boaz the Lord would extend mercy to Elimelech and Mahlon, "the dead," by raising up an heir through Levirate marriage (a concept to be discussed next week). In responding compassionately to the needs of others, Christians not only alleviate suffering but also give a positive witness to the providential care of a loving God.

Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

Children of Israel prepare to enter Promised Land

By R. Raymond Lloyd
Numbers 10:11-14:45

As the children of Israel break camp headed for the Promised Land, they encounter hunger, thirst, and exhaustion. Each time they complain and wish to journey no further. Chapters 11-12 describe these series of rebellions. The most intense rebellion against the authority of Moses occurs in the story of the "12 spies" (chapters 13-14).



Lloyd

I. Exploration of the land. Numbers 13:1-26. Israel now appears to have arrived at Kadesh, located deep in the desert, 60 miles south of Beersheba. Twelve men were chosen to spy out (NEB — "to explore") the land. They were to explore the land, the people and the cities (vs. 18-19).

Each tribe is to be represented among the explorers, thus giving fair and equal representation. It should be noted that God here instructs Moses to send out the spies, while in Deuteronomy 1:20ff, it is suggested by the people and Moses agrees to it. Could it not be that the writer of Deuteronomy expresses the concerns and anxieties of the people concerning safety and military strategy, while in Numbers

BIBLE BOOK

13:1, 2 God is telling Moses the purpose of the exploration is to see how wonderful was the land that God had provided for them? These two strains of thought seem to be continually interwoven through the whole passage.

The exploration covers the whole land of Canaan (from Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran, vs. 26 to Rehob, vs. 21, near the northernmost boundary of Canaan, near Dan).

The journey took place about this time of year — late July through August — the harvest season (vs. 20). It only takes one summer visit to Israel to realize the truth about the "fruit of the land." Rarely will one find greater abundance of, or more delicious, apricots, dates, figs, grapes, and oranges than can be found in Israel. Imagine what it must have looked and tasted like to those folks who had been under the stress of the desert for well over a year.

II. Rebellion of the people. Numbers 13:27-29. After 40 days the spies returned with a glowing report (vs. 27). The people were excited. God has provided us with a good land. Then comes that awful word, "Nevertheless" — there are risks, difficulties, giants in the land! (vs. 28) The descendants of Anak had been encountered. Anak comes from the word mean-

ing "neck," hence, people with long necks, lanky, i.e. giants. "Nephilim" in vs. 33, meaning "fallen one," referring to Gen. 6:1-4, the offspring of the unnatural union of the sons of God and the daughters of men — hence giants. In addition, there were a multiplicity of other inhabitants in the land, probably seeking control of its productivity.

Caleb brings the minority report and says, "Let's go!" The doubters said, "They are giants, we are like grasshoppers, let's stay!" Walter Riggans sums it up magnificently: "Faith and doubt are always in a struggle in our lives. Love and fear both move us and influence us. But when decisions have to be made, then faith must act on its recollection of God's goodness, and love must put its trust in the Lord. Even when odds are awful and pressures are great, our faltering steps must be steps of faith. We need to focus on the power of God, not on the power of the opposition."

The people, however, respond with open, ugly, uncontrolled, violent rebellion against Moses and Aaron (14:1-10a).

III. Intercession of Moses 14:11-24. A broken-hearted and despairing God repeatedly cries out, "How long" (vss. 11, 27), how long will Israel go on not trusting him. He then vows to disinherit them (vs. 12). Moses intercedes for Israel on the basis of God's own reputation, his mercy in the past, and his promise for the

future. In the midst of the intercession, Moses waxes eloquent about the character of God (vs. 18). God is "slow to anger" — patient; "abundant in mercy" — the Hosea word — steadfastness, faithfulness within the covenant, even if Israel broke the covenant; "forgiving iniquity and transgression" — lifting, carrying away the bentness and twistedness, as well as the intentional and deliberate personal rebellion against God. But sin has to be paid for!

God's pardon is given, but the scars of sin remain. No man over 20 years of age would be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Those who did not match God's abundant gift (of the Promised Land) with responsible action, were prohibited from receiving the gift. Belief must be matched by behavior. One cannot expect to inherit the blessings of God here or hereafter without being responsibly obedient to the directives of the Lord.

But Caleb was a man of "a different spirit." He trusted God. He was ready to match faith with action. His reward, like that of Joshua, was the privilege to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 14:6ff). Oh, for more men with "a different spirit" who dare to be disciplined by God's word and will, and who will stand for the right even if against the majority. Truly the Promised Land of God's blessings will be their reward.

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"

By Randall L. Von Kanel
Psalms 23; 121

Inherent to the call of Jesus to "follow me" is the call to "trust in the Lord with all your heart." Following Jesus as a daily discipline stands in juxtaposition to a developing relationship of trust in God. The Christian life is nothing less than a "trust-walk" with God. Our faithful obedience is but a response to the trustworthiness of God.



Von Kanel

In this lesson on trusting God, two popular psalms provide the biblical text for our study: Psalm 23, the shepherd psalm of David, and Psalm 121, a praise psalm by an anonymous author. Our familiarity with the 23rd Psalm does not diminish our love and respect for its simple beauty in expressing an honest trust in God. Psalm 121 captures the steadfast faith of the psalmist who believed the Lord to be his keeper. Both songs of faith teach us to trust God in every circumstance of life.

In Psalm 23:1-4, David employs the pastoral

LIFE AND WORK

figure of the ancient shepherd to describe his relationship to God. Surely, recalling his own experiences as a youthful shepherd, the psalmist understands God (Yahweh) to be his shepherd. With our descriptive statement, David affirms the total sufficiency of God to meet every need of the human heart (v. 1). Paul wrote, in Philippians 4:19, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Christians should rest in the knowledge that in Christ we have the promise of his supply for every need of life.

In verses 2-3, David delineates the activities of the Lord in his shepherd role of supplying our need. God meets our need of spiritual nourishment and rest by leading us to "green pastures" and "still water" (v. 2). He thus "restores" us and provides guidance in righteous living (v. 3). In picturesque poetry, David draws us to the tranquility of a beautiful, natural setting where, alone with God, we are able to "be still, and know" that he is God.

Verse 4 reveals the protective role of the shepherd in response to any threat of harm to his sheep. "The valley of the shadow of death" is better understood as a place of foreboding darkness. John Durham (BBC) believes that the "valley" could either be "those places where the potential of danger is great or . . . the unknown shadows of death." David asserts that God leads us through those times of life when trial and tragedy surround us. The reason we do not fear is because God is with us. His presence and power are comforting assurances that we will be delivered through the ominous circumstances of life. How comforting to know that the Lord Jesus is our shepherd. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The shepherd motif is applied metaphorically as an appropriate testimony of God's goodness and trustworthiness.

Though the analogy changes in verses 5-6 from that of the shepherd to the host, the message remains the same: David can trust Yahweh to provide and protect throughout his life. The exclamation, "My cup runneth over," pours from a soul who knows the abundance of God's provision. David confidently asserted

that his host (Yahweh) for life would never fail in bestowing "goodness" and "steadfast love."

Psalm 121 continues our thought on the trustworthiness of God. In verses 1-2, the psalmist identifies God (Yahweh) as the source of man's help. The theme phrase of this psalm of praise and assurance is "the Lord is your keeper" (v. 5a). "Keeper" is best translated as "guard." God will watch over and protect his own. In verses 3-4, the constancy of God's help is assured, because "he who keeps you will not slumber." God is continuously available to hear our cries for help. In the final four verses, the psalmist emphasizes Yahweh's protecting guard through all of life. Jesus reminded his disciples, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20b).

We find that God is worthy of our trust. He is our "good shepherd" and beneficent "host." God is our constant keeper! He alone is worthy of the trust of our lives. In the days of my life, I have acknowledged with the songwriter: "Through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus . . . I've learned to depend on his Word." Trust God today!

Von Kanel is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

capsules



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Thailand Baptist Mission marks 40 years of mission service

The Thailand Baptist Mission held its annual meeting on July 2-7, at the Baptist encampment on the Gulf of Siam in Pattaya, Thailand. This year was highlighted with a 40th anniversary celebration of worship and thanksgiving, followed by a reception honoring the missionary couples with over thirty years service. These were Ronald and Evelyn Hill (North Carolina) appointed in 1952, Bob and Jeannie Spear (Oklahoma) appointed in 1954, Paul and Dottie Mosteller (Tennessee) appointed in 1956, Jerry and Darline Hobbs (Oklahoma) ap-

pointed in 1957, and Bob and Maxine Stewart (Alabama) appointed in 1958 — a combined total of 336 years of missionary service from these senior missionaries.

During these 40 years, missionaries have seen 36 Baptist churches constituted (with 2534 members) and 46 home groups and preaching points (with 466 members) in a country where Buddhism claims 94 percent of the population, a religion which has been in the country more than a thousand years.

Literacy text focuses on Bible

ATLANTA (BP) — The first known textbook that uses the New Testament as the foundation for teaching English as a second language has been published by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The student workbook and teacher's guide, called "English Lessons From the Bible," uses the Gospel of Mark to teach English as a second language,

said Mildred Blankenship of the Atlanta-based missions agency.

Blankenship, who has specialized in literacy missions for Southern Baptists for 27 years, said the book uses the first four chapters of Mark as it teaches word usage in English. The 363-page study uses the Good News Bible for its text.

National Baptist Convention of Mexico recognizes border-area congregations

PUEBLA, Mexico (BP) — The National Baptist Convention of Mexico recently took steps toward formally recognizing and organizing an association of rural churches started through the Texas Baptist River Ministry.

During the 80th annual meeting of the Mexican convention, July 16-21 in Puebla, Puebla, the convention's missions committee unanimously approved a plan to recognize the border congregations as a fellowship of churches, the first step toward full status as an association.

With Ojinaga as its hub, the new fellowship includes 24 churches and numerous missions in the states of Coahuila and Chihuahua, south of Big Bend.

Juan Ponce, a church planter and rural missions pastor who has worked extensively with the Rio Grande River Ministry, helped start 18 of those congregations.

National task force formed on marketplace evangelism

ATLANTA (BP) — A national task force has been formed to help Southern Baptists develop evangelistic ministries in the workplace.

The task force on marketplace evangelism was organized by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department with support from Midwestern Seminary, in Kansas City, Mo. Also represented on the 73-member task force are the denomination's Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Foreign Mission Board, Sunday School Board, state conventions and associations, as well as pastors and laity from a variety of vocations.

The purpose of the task force is to design a denominational emphasis on marketplace evangelism that will be launched in three-year pilot projects beginning in Boston in 1990 and Los Angeles in 1991.

"Marketplace evangelism is the people of God — the laos — sharing the gospel through redemptive ministry in the workplace," said Reid Hardin, director of the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department.

"Marketplace evangelism is lifestyle evangelism."

Every office building is a mission field where the scattered church comes in contact with those who need the gospel, Hardin explained. In the workplace, Christian laypeople have opportunities for witnessing that pastors and missionaries will never have, he said.

The pilot projects in Boston and Los Angeles will begin with regional conferences on "The Laos in Marketplace Evangelism" in those cities. Both will provide workshops and seminars with models of church-based ministries in the marketplace, Hardin said.

"200 by 2000 with 20,000"

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — The Honduras Baptist Convention has adopted a goal to have 200 churches by the year 2000 with a total church membership of 20,000. To meet this

goal, Honduran Baptists must organize at least 12 new churches annually, according to missionary Stanley Stamps.



Marjorie Dunaway, standing, volunteer from McComb, leads Bible study during senior adult VBS at Baytowers, retirement and nursing home.

Jackson County — Part II

Blitz includes VBS in nursing homes

Seven women from outside Jackson County and eight from within taught Bible school for senior adults July 17-21 in four nursing homes, Plaza Nursing Center, Chateau Deville, Baytowers, and Gautier Personal Care Home, as part of a ministries blitz.

"They mean so much to me," said Gloria Irwin of Brookhaven, with tears in her eyes, "I hate to leave them!" She had asked the elderly women to lead in prayers and to share their own Bible knowledge.

Gautier women said, "Hey! This is great! We're going to keep this ministry going after this week!"

Besides Bible study, some teams directed crafts, such as making quilt

squares. Others made necklaces of wooden hearts and ribbons.

Some volunteers made up the older women's faces, trimmed and painted their fingernails, and gave them beads. Some just provided a listening ear for those who wanted to talk.

The seven from out of county were Opal Graves, Meadville; Pamela Allen, Gloria Irwin, and Ruth Mullin of Brookhaven; Mary Ann O'Brien, Magnolia; Marjorie B. Dunaway, McComb; and Edith Campbell, Purvis. Those from Jackson County were Zelma Lofton, Ann Hollis, Peggy Peterson, Oleta Davis, Virginia Randolph, Connie Howard, Viola Graham, and Louise Johnson.



Residents of Baytowers nursing and retirement home display quilt squares they made during crafts time at VBS for senior adults. At right is Edith Campbell, volunteer from Purvis, who helped to teach the school.

Homecomings

Beacon, Petal; homecoming, Aug. 20; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m.; Cecil Hathorne, former pastor, speaker; burning of note on land at close of service; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; singing in afternoon led by Hathorne; Grady Odom, pastor.

First, Yazoo City: Aug. 20; Sunday School, 9:40 a.m.; 11 a.m., special music by the sanctuary choir under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Henley, plus other instrumental and choral music; Mrs. Dot Pray, keyboard specialist with Church Music Department of MBCB, guest organist; James F. Yates, pastor and on his 28th anniversary, will bring message; dinner served in activities building, noon; 7 p.m. service will feature Guy Hovis of Tupelo and formerly vocalist with the Lawrence Welk Show.

Lots of folks seem to tolerate poverty easily — usually they're the ones who aren't in it.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Aug. 21 Associational Officers Training; FBC, Brandon; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD)
- Aug. 22 Associational Officers Training; FBC, Winona; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD)
- Aug. 24 Associational Officers Training; FBC, Columbia; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD)

SCRAPBOOK

The play of life

I wandered in the play of life
With lights and acting and scenes.
I wandered without purpose
Never knowing quite what life means
For life was filled with actors
Each trying to play his part:
But playing without hope —
And acting with broken heart.

Then one day a message came
From far behind the backdrop.
A message of love and life
That caused my confusion to stop.

The world and all its allurements
Have ceased their great appeal.
The Truth now discovered;
Appearances fade to the real.
Life behind the backdrops of life
Is reality that may be found —
But only through droplets of blood
Which one day fell to the ground.
Never was love more manifest
Than that most Holy Day
When Christ stepped in front of
the backdrops
To bear my sins away.

—Donald Minshew
Walls

Baptist Record

August 17, 1989

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205